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Fate/Grand Order and
Youjo Senki

otaku

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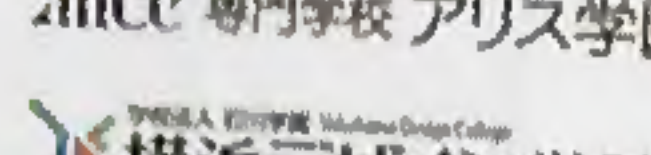
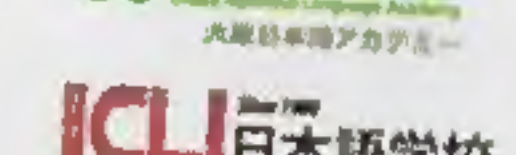
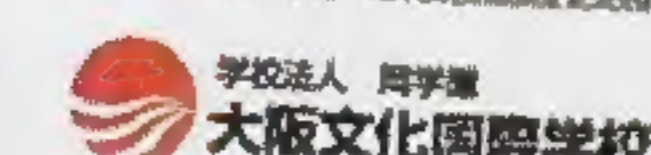
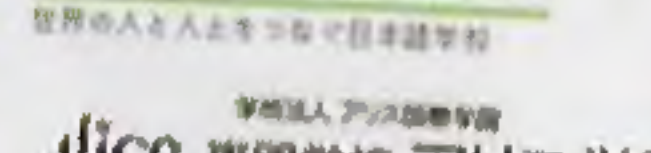
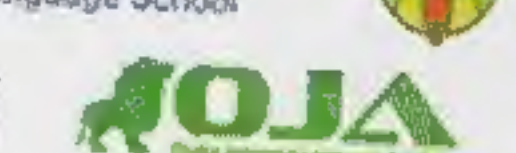
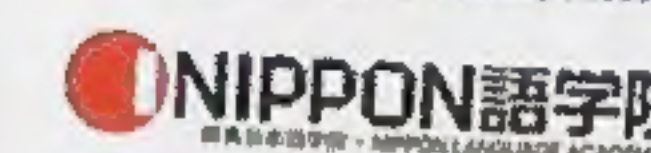
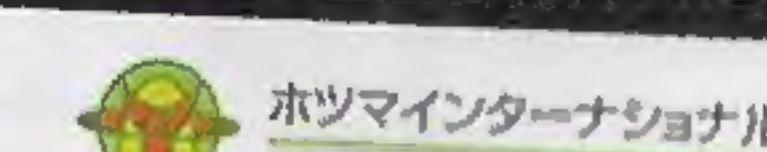
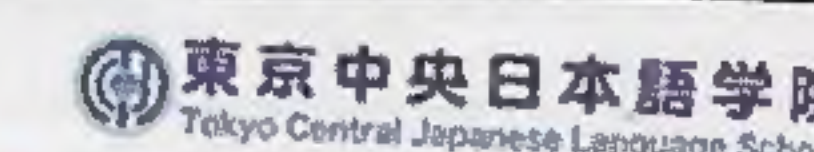
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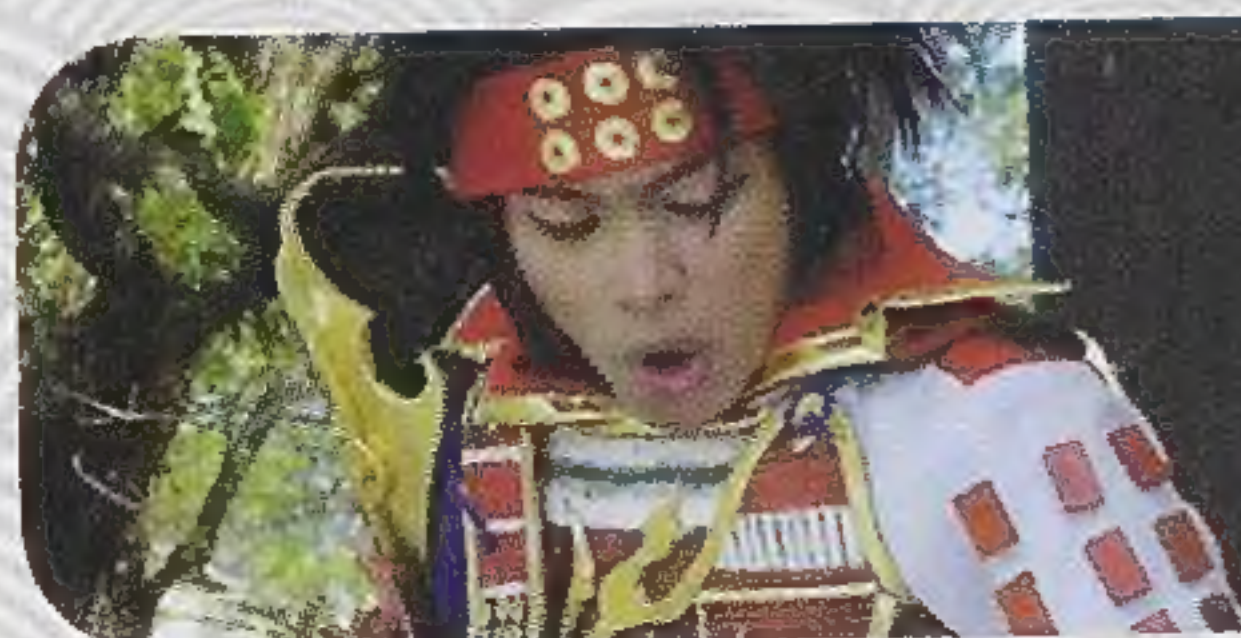
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This issue is full of event coverages. Just in time for our O-kun Fiesta celebration! Our annual giving-back event for our readers and fans is back again for its third year.

Our choice of having Fate/Grand Order as our cover is long due. We've always been fans of the Fate/ series and many has asked us to have an issue for it and here it is! This is also because we have foreseen this year 2017 as the year of Fate/

Not only is Fate/GO racking up all the fans, Sword Art online has also released new movies, games and OVA? Games that are taking up your timeline is also here: Pokemon Sun and Moon, Tales of Berseria and (what do you know) Nier: Automata.

Just so you know, we travelled all the way to Cebu for this issue as well (waits for applause) and we are going back to the city for more. Who knew that Cebu otaku events are popular and worth the trip?

What, see you there next time?

-kanddy



Naru by TRI EYE

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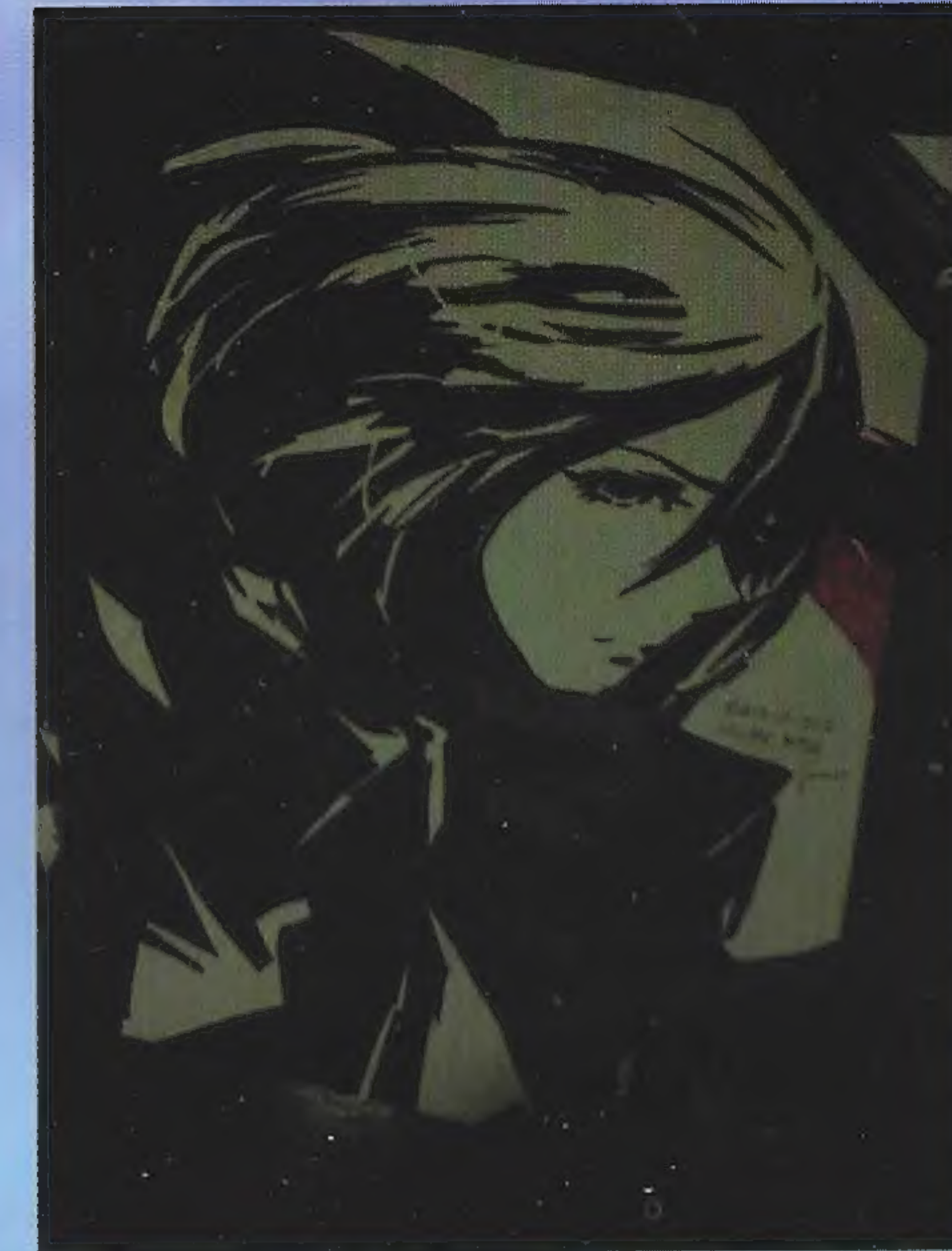
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HOODIES



by Jesana Marie



by Carla Ibarra

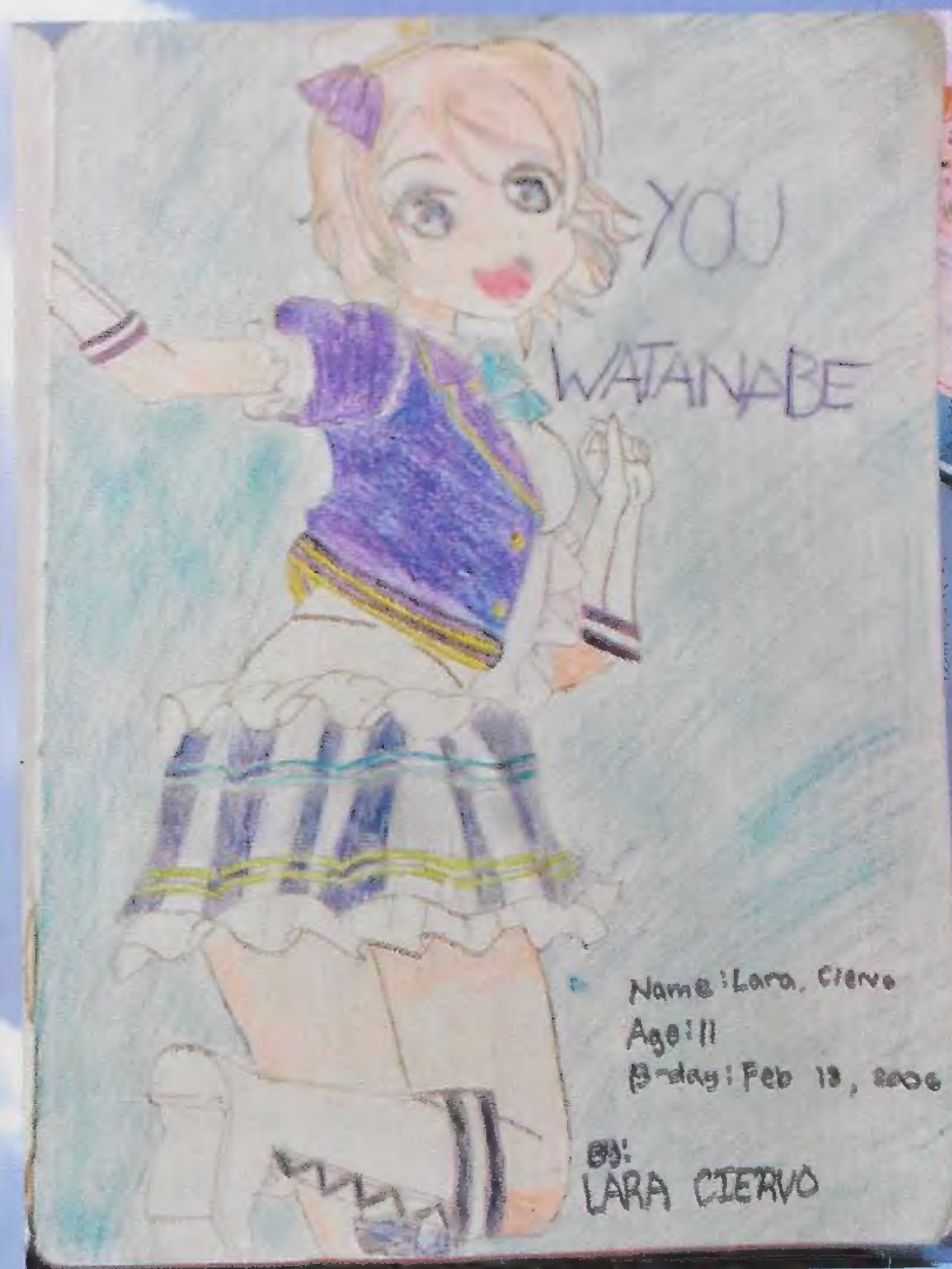
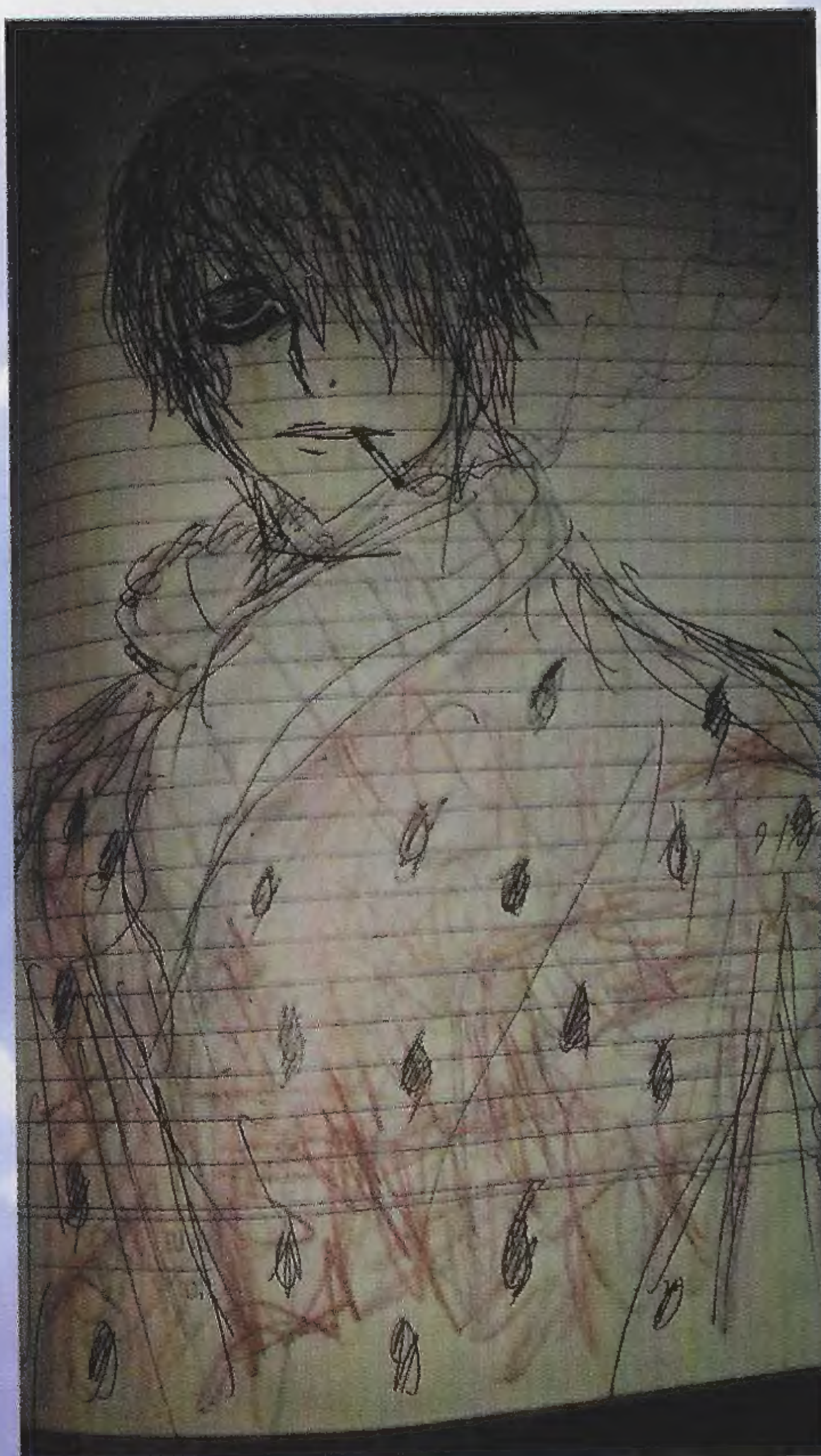


by Leilani Agatha Campo Twitter : @tha005, Instagram: leilani_agatha



ion-byte from tumblr / Mari Belo

--Jin Nummern



Hi! I'm sending this on behalf of Lara Ciervo, my sister. -Nico

Hi Otaku asia!!! I just want to say that I love your Magazines and features. I was hoping if you would feature GooseHouse which sung the Main song for Your Lie on April. Also, continue to create more Magazines. I've already collected 4. I learned so much new anime and manga from you so thank you!!! I love you Otaku Asia!!!
-Andrea Claire

Got Requests? Fanmail to shoutout? Fanart to showoff? Otaku Asia would love to hear from you!

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NEWS

by lizac 3.0

INUYASHA STAGE PLAY SLATED IN APRIL

Fans of Rumiko Takahashi's *Inuyasha* are lucky this spring as the famous manga gets its second stage play adaptation. Unlike its forerunner in 2001, *Inuyasha 2017* will be staged in 3D. The cast has been announced as early as February and the rehearsals have also started in late winter.

Kyan Yutaka plays as Inuyasha, the half-demon dog protagonist of the series. The 32-year-old band member is the guitarist of a famous visual kei rock band Golden Bomber. Aside from being an active musician, he also occasionally acts in dramas and action movies. Inuyasha will be his debut role in a stage play. Depicting Kagome Higurashi is **Yumi Wakatsuki**, a 22-year-old idol and a first generation member of the group Nogizaka46. Yumi's fans are excited to see her beautiful transformation based on her recent pictorials, from when she started her career up to now.

Another member from the group Nogizaka46 is **Itou Junna** who has been cast as Kikyou, Inuyasha's former lover. Inuyasha's brother Sesshoumaru will be played by **Sana Hiroki**. This will be his second role as a stage actor after playing as Kaidoh Kaoru in the Prince of Tennis musicals.

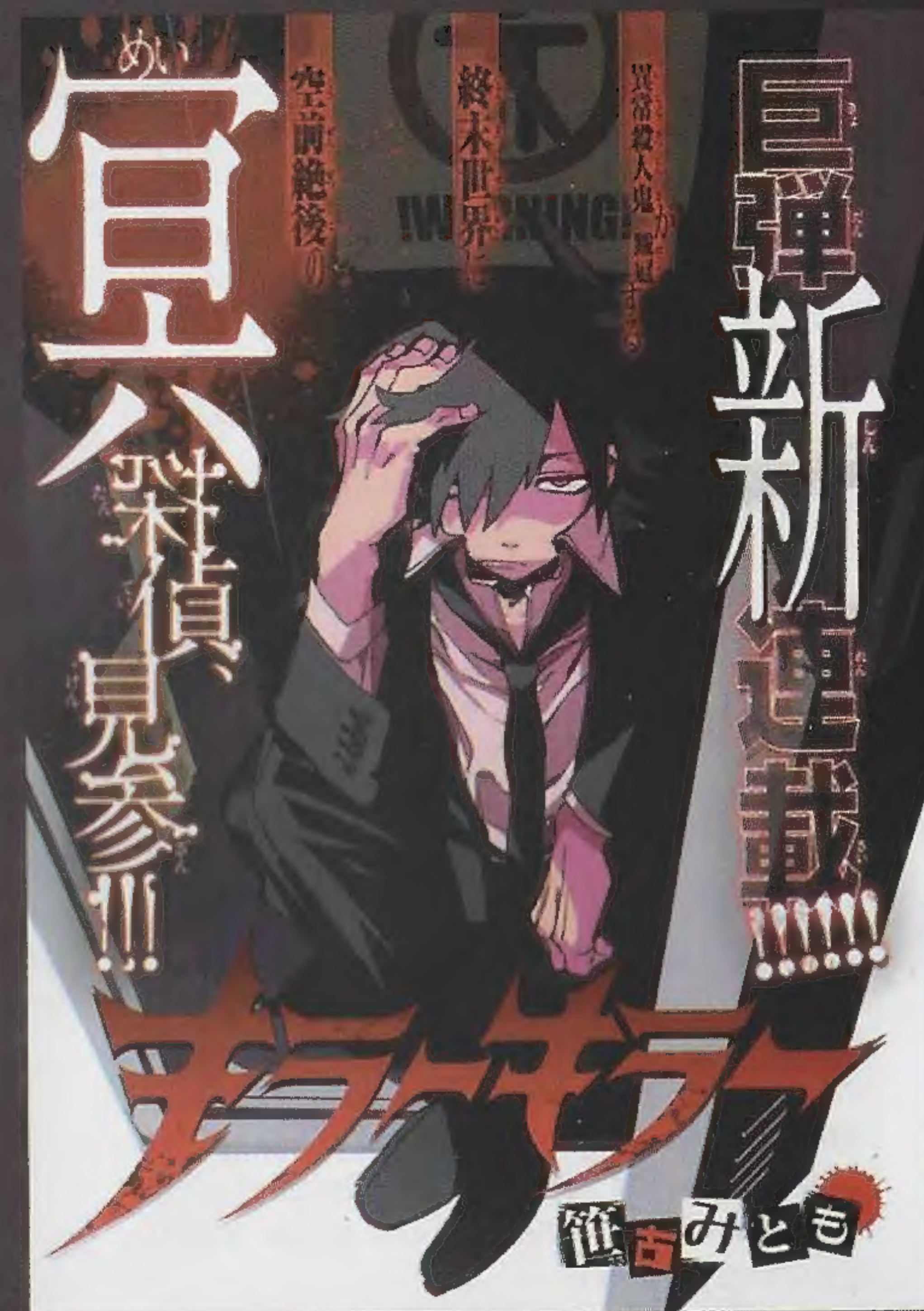
The *Inuyasha* stage play will run from April 6 to April 15 at the Galaxy Theater in Tokyo.

DANGANRONPA GAIDEN: KILLER KILLER MANGA SPINOFF TO END IN APRIL

Kodansha's *Bessatsu Shonen Magazine* announced on its March issue that *Danganronpa Gaiden: Killer Killer* ends on April.

Killer Killer is about the cases being solved by The Future Foundation, an organization formed to battle despair in the aftermath of The Mastermind's death. Misaki Asano is a newly hired investigator assigned at the 6th Division's Special Case Bureau. The said division handles the strangest and most spiteful murder cases, one of which is The Killer who Kills the Killers.

The spinoff *Killer Killer* was released by Kodansha in March last year as a standalone manga, written and illustrated by Sasako Mitomo. However, on its third chapter, the readers had been informed that it is a spinoff of *Danganronpa 3: The End of Hope's Peak High School*. The spinoff's timeline follows the story of *Danganronpa Another Episode: Ultra Despair Girls*.



FILMING FOR CHIHAYAFURU LIVE-ACTION SEQUEL STARTS THIS SPRING

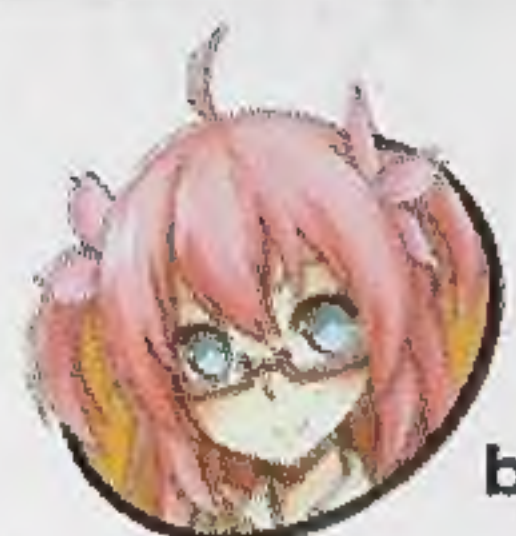
Last February, Director **Norihiro Koizumi** announced at a competition event that *Chihayafuru*'s live-action sequel to the first two adaptations will be filmed this spring 2017.

Information about the said sequel has already been announced as early as 2016. The announcement was made at the April 29th premier showing of the second *Chihayafuru* movie.



Following the success of Yuki Suetsugu's *Chihayafuru* manga and the anime adaptation, two *Chihayafuru* live-action films have already been released in 2016 and are both proven successful: ***Chihayafuru: Kami no Ku*** (*Chihayafuru: Upper Phrase*) which premiered on March 19 in Japan and ***Chihayafuru: Shimo no Ku*** (*Chihayafuru: Lower Phrase*) which opened in Japan on April 29.

The main cast from the previous *Chihayafuru* live-action films will be reprising their roles in this sequel. **Suzu Hirose** will play as Chihaya Ayase, **Shuuhei Nomura** as Taichi Mashima, and **Mackenyu** as Arata Wataya. Director Koizumi said that the film will focus on Chihaya, Taichi, and Arata's love triangle.



OTAKUGOODIES

by kanddy



Flaunt Your Husbanda

Buying button pins and keychain of your favorite characters is very common for us otaku. Usually these will be placed on our bags but with a risk of falling off or getting stolen. Japan has found a way for you to secure your items while showing off your stuff (thanks Japan).

These bags are called "Ita Bags" and they have actually arrived in the PH! Though the price is still a bit high right now, there are many distributors.

Some of our friends have started selling them:

OliveCubes

Website: www.olivecubes.com
Shop: www.olivecubes.tictail.com

Pastel Fox

Shopee: shopee.ph/pastelfoxshop

We have seen many ita backpackers last #YOIconph2017 and last Cosplay Carnival. We have even seen Sailor Moon Philippines post a moon-shaped ita bag.

This culture of overly adorned bags or jackets started in Japan as "painful bag" because the bag is weighed down from all the decorations making it heavy and painful. It started with normal bags, safety pins and many, many character memorabilia and merchandise. From button badges, plushies, keychains,

phone strap charms and more. The choice of items to display is all up to you but mostly is character-specific. This makes it a bag sort of a public otaku shrine.

While these bags are available, any bag is actually good! Just be creative and free! We'd love to see your creations on instagram or Facebook.



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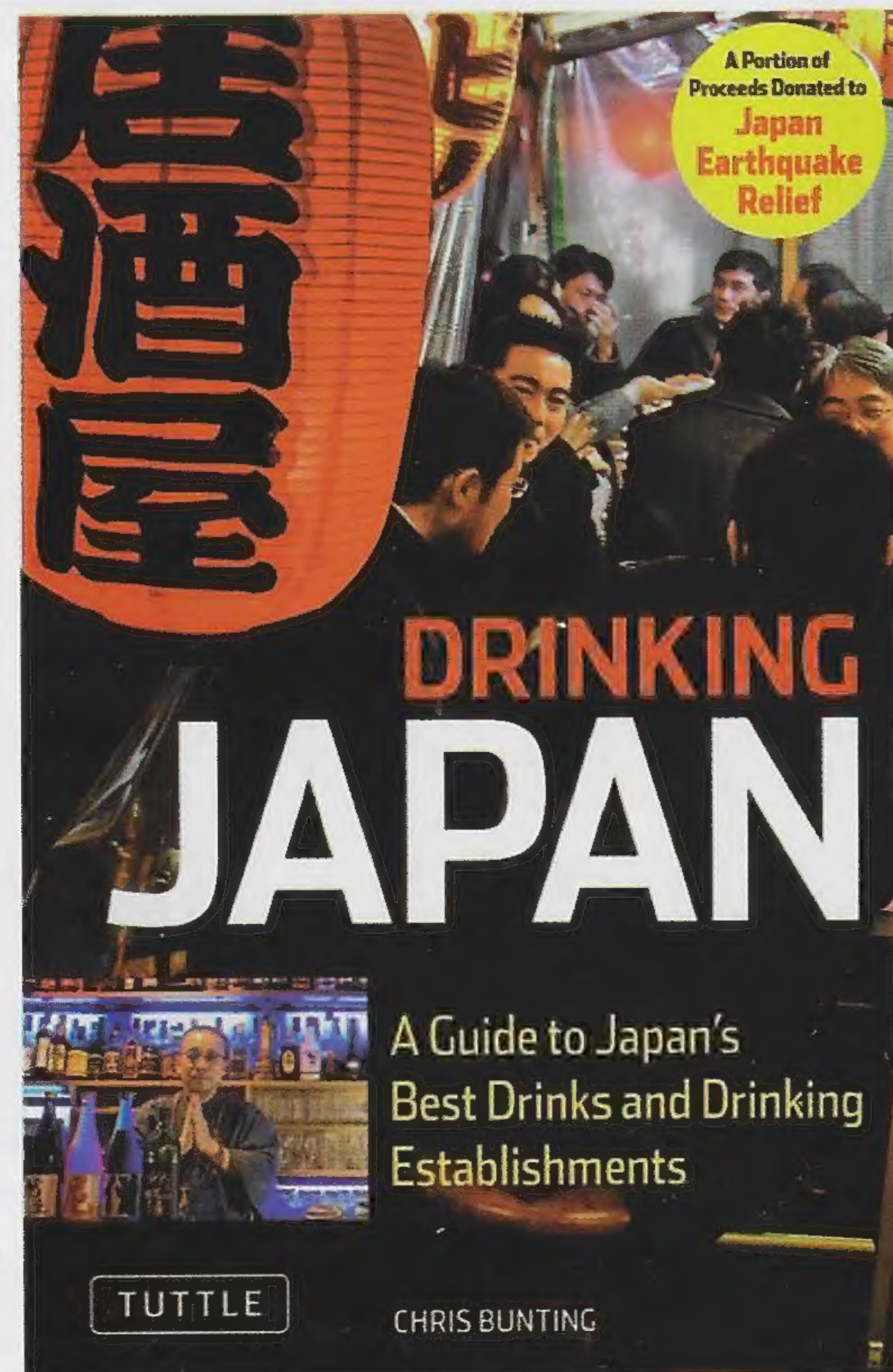
by kanddy

Whether or not you drink is not the issue. It's the socialization that happens during drinking nights. Just like here in the Philippines, alcohol is a big thing in Japan. Businessmen would end the night with beers and karaoke. Students will celebrate with sochu and awamori. Dragons will drink sake. However, there are some points to remember, cultures to respect and brands to avoid.

Chris Bunting's guide, *Drinking Japan* will help you get sorted out. The book contains reviews of 122 bars in Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe, and Hiroshima extending further afield. For a trip to Japan is not complete without experiencing its famous night life!

More than 120 of the country's best bars are featured in richly illustrated reviews, with menu tips, directions and language help. If you are drinking in Japan, most likely it is going to be a thrilling night. Japan is home to some of the world's most extraordinary alcoholic beverages as well as the most appealing bar scenes. This book will prepare you and your friends with the tips and tricks you need when navigating through cool Japan bar scenes and night life.

Written after a year and a half of experience of drinking around Japan (good job there!), the book takes you on such a drinking adventure you'll never regret and (hopefully) forget. Don't forget us when you do, share your experience with us!



The Main Types of Drinking Establishments

The first and most common type of drinking establishment in Japan is the izakaya, or "pub". It is a place where people go to drink and eat. The second type is the bar, which is usually more formal and expensive. The third type is the restaurant, which often has a bar area. The fourth type is the lounge, which is usually more relaxed and has a focus on music. The fifth type is the club, which is usually the most expensive and has a focus on dancing. The sixth type is the karaoke bar, which is a popular place for groups of friends to go and sing. The seventh type is the tea house, which is a traditional place for drinking tea. The eighth type is the sake bar, which is a place where people go to drink sake. The ninth type is the beer bar, which is a place where people go to drink beer. The tenth type is the cocktail bar, which is a place where people go to drink cocktails. The eleventh type is the wine bar, which is a place where people go to drink wine. The twelfth type is the distillery, which is a place where people go to drink spirits. The thirteenth type is the brewery, which is a place where people go to drink beer. The fourteenth type is the winery, which is a place where people go to drink wine. The fifteenth type is the distillery, which is a place where people go to drink spirits. The sixteenth type is the brewery, which is a place where people go to drink beer. The seventeenth type is the winery, which is a place where people go to drink wine. The eighteenth type is the distillery, which is a place where people go to drink spirits. The nineteenth type is the brewery, which is a place where people go to drink beer. The twentieth type is the winery, which is a place where people go to drink wine.



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JUST JAPAN

by Ann



Let it Grow... into a Mold!

Presentation matters! And that's something we keep in mind in almost every aspect of our life, but over everything else, we have the highest standards when it comes to our food. The look of a dish affects how appetizing it can be, yet aside from cooking utensils, there's another method to make fruits and vegetables look the way we want them.

The Japanese started this farming method with the ever-so-popular square watermelons. Molding fruits and vegetables is a process that requires plastic molds or cases to help a fruit or vegetable take its shape as it grows. Japan began with the square molds because of space issues. As a small country, they are known to take space to heart, from using futons that they can easily roll away when it's no longer bedtime to measuring a room's space using tatami mats. Surely, their concern with the waste of space that a regular watermelon would cause to their refrigerator was serious enough to get them to initiate a revolutionary change to the shape of the watermelon. Also, the cubed watermelons are easier to pile and transport, not to mention will not roll around like the regular watermelons do.



Despite these fruits and vegetables being high-priced, making them on your own is actually a more budget-friendly alternative. These molds, made of clear plastic and are usually non-toxic and/or BPA-free, can be bought online starting at \$3. To use, you only need to secure the young fruit or vegetable you are growing into the case. This way, the fruit or vegetable can proceed with its natural growing process while taking the shape of the mold. You can use hooks with net or a stick to help hold the plant up. Since the mold is transparent, it will be easy to see if the content is ready for harvesting.

Sure enough, this passion for making food tasty-looking will not be limited in Japan. It's a trend that's even becoming popular for occasions like Halloween (with the Frankenstein head and skull head shaped varieties) and Valentine's Day (with the heart shaped varieties). Into a shape that's for an occasion or simply for fun, let your fruits and veggies grow!

In addition to space concerns, fruits are considered great gifts in Japan. Thus, it's crucial that the fruits they buy are presentable. For them, the hefty price tag doesn't matter as much as the high quality. The regular fruits displayed in supermarkets are sure to be the tastiest and most attractive-looking of the bunch since they don't display anything that has even a small blemish or bump. Among the fruits grown in the molds, the shapes can vary from a heart, a human face, a pyramid, a Buddha, and a baby. There are even fruits grown with words on them.

While vegetables are not given as gifts, molded ones make their dishes look stunning. Star-shaped cucumbers can easily catch attention. Aside from kids liking vegetables more because of the way they look, making bento boxes becomes easier by reducing the need for carving vegetables into shapes. So presentation-wise, shaped vegetables can compete with meat when making mouths water!





Voice of a King

Re:Zero's take on the "isekai" theme shocked the anime community as it subverted the tropes commonly used in popular culture. Everyone was constantly at the edge of their seats as they witness Subaru's pain and suffering for 25 episodes. Since the series was a trending topic on social media and anime community forums during its 6-month airing period, Re:Zero inevitably became one of the most popular anime of 2016. It's also thanks to Re:Zero that anime fans outside of Japan discovered another rising star of the seiyuu industry.

Rie Takahashi is a 23-year old voice actress from Saitama currently affiliated with 81 produce. She won the best female newcomer award at the 10th seiyuu awards last year. After graduating from high school in 2012, she immediately attended training school to become a seiyuu. Takahashi formed the seiyuu unit Anisoni ♡ during the same year while continuing with her lessons.

Takahashi's road to success began when she was able to get the lead roles for Gakkou Gurashi, Ranpo Kitan, and Sore ga Seiyuu in summer 2015. Afterwards, she joined Earphones, a singing unit formed by the three main seiyuus of Sore ga Seiyuu! during the same year. She also took over as the new voice actress behind Mashu Kyrielite from Fate/Grand Order since October 2016 due to her original voice actress, Risa Taneda, announcing her hiatus from the industry for a while to receive medical treatment.



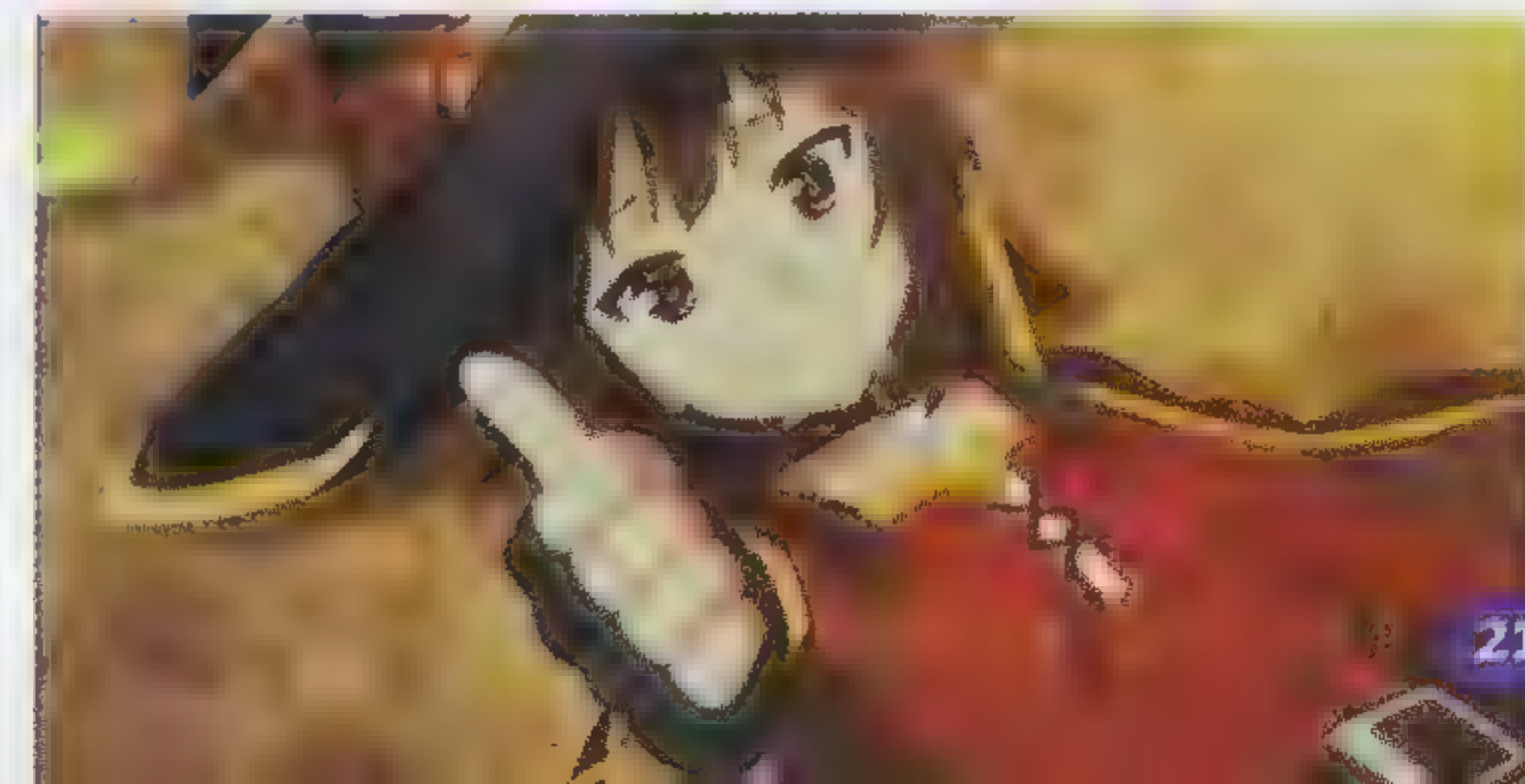
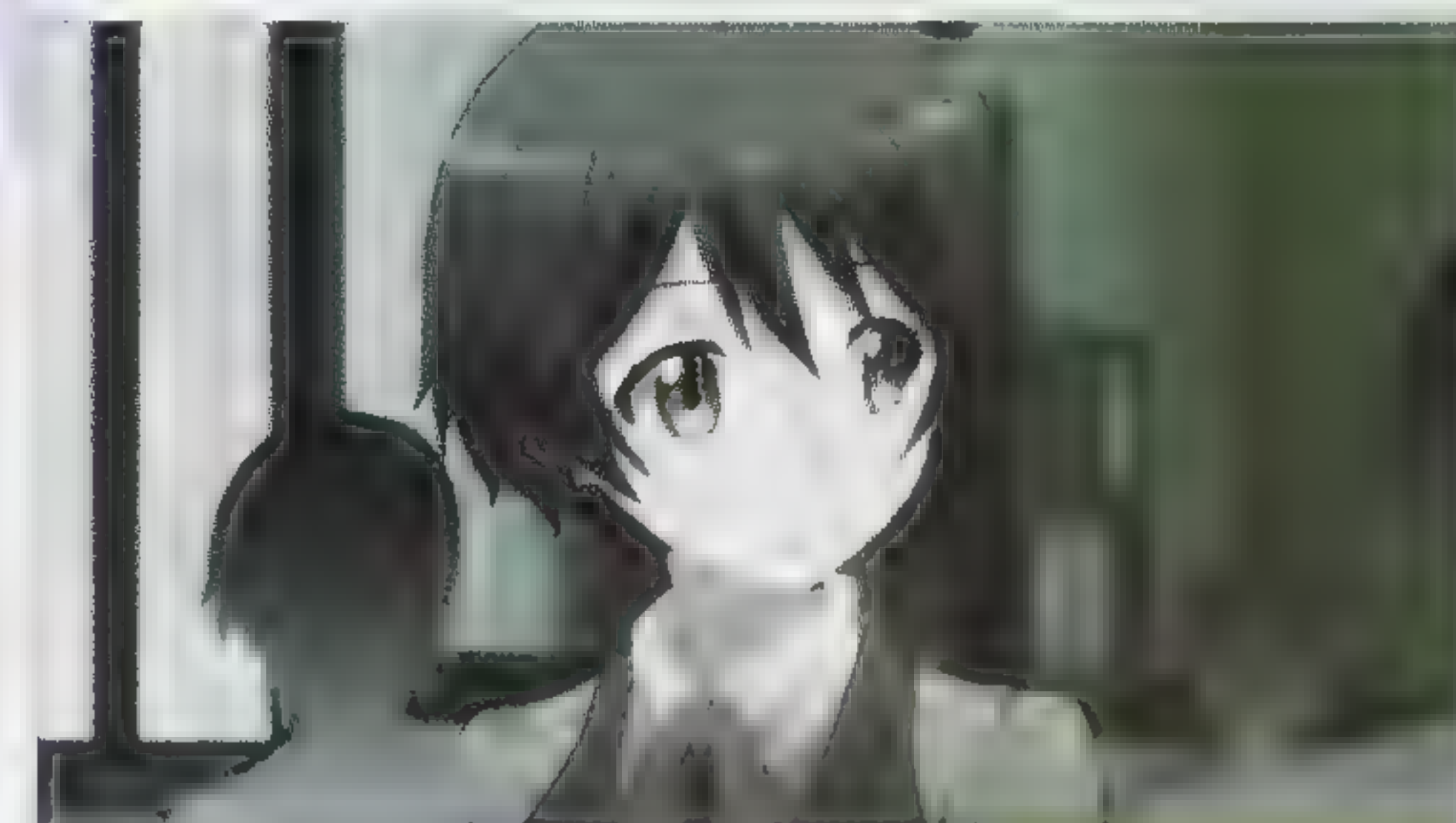
RIE TAKAHASHI

Notable Roles:

- Kobayashi – Ranpo Kitan: Game of Laplace
- Futaba Ichinose – Sore ga Seiyuu!
- Megumin – Kono Subarashii Sekai ni Shukufuku o!
- Miki Naoki – Gakkou Gurashi
- Emilla – Re:Zero kara Hajimeru Isekai Seikatsu
- Mirai Asahina / Cure Miracle – Mahou Girls PreCure
- Noct Leaflet – Saijaku Muhai no Bahamut
- Matome Mayonaka – Akiba's Trip: The Animation

For those who own a twitter account, you can follow Rie Takahashi's official twitter page for updates about her future roles and non-anime projects. Please give her your never-ending support, dear Otafans!

Twitter page:
<https://twitter.com/taka8rie>





OTAKUGOODIES

by kahlua

Make your dim sum kawaii!

Cute foods anyone? Dishes so cute you'd feel all hesitations first before you could eat them? Worry not because Hong Kong's famous food trend has finally reached the Philippines!



Darwin Dimsum serves you the cutest, tasty dumpling you'd see, just perfect for your warm dim sum. Their hakaw, a traditional Cantonese dumpling, is designed as our universal favorite cat, Hello Kitty! Using some colorful jelly-like ingredients, they drew Hello Kitty's face and ribbon in their white hakaws. Rejoice all San Rio's Hello Kitty lovers out there, for it's not just dumplings but also custard buns that are designed as Hello Kitty.

But that's not all! Who doesn't love the oh-so-cute, friendly, furry, black-and-white bears? You're right! Pandas has also made their way to their cuisine. No, it's not a real panda (please don't even think of hunting these big cuties as food!), but the vegetable buns are designed to look like one. The idea is simple, but you don't see this kind of food very often especially in a classic Chinese restaurant. It certainly makes eating Chinese food even better and enjoyable.

So what are you waiting for? Grab some of these jewels now at Darwin Dimsum located at SM Jazz Mall in Bel-Air, Makati City!



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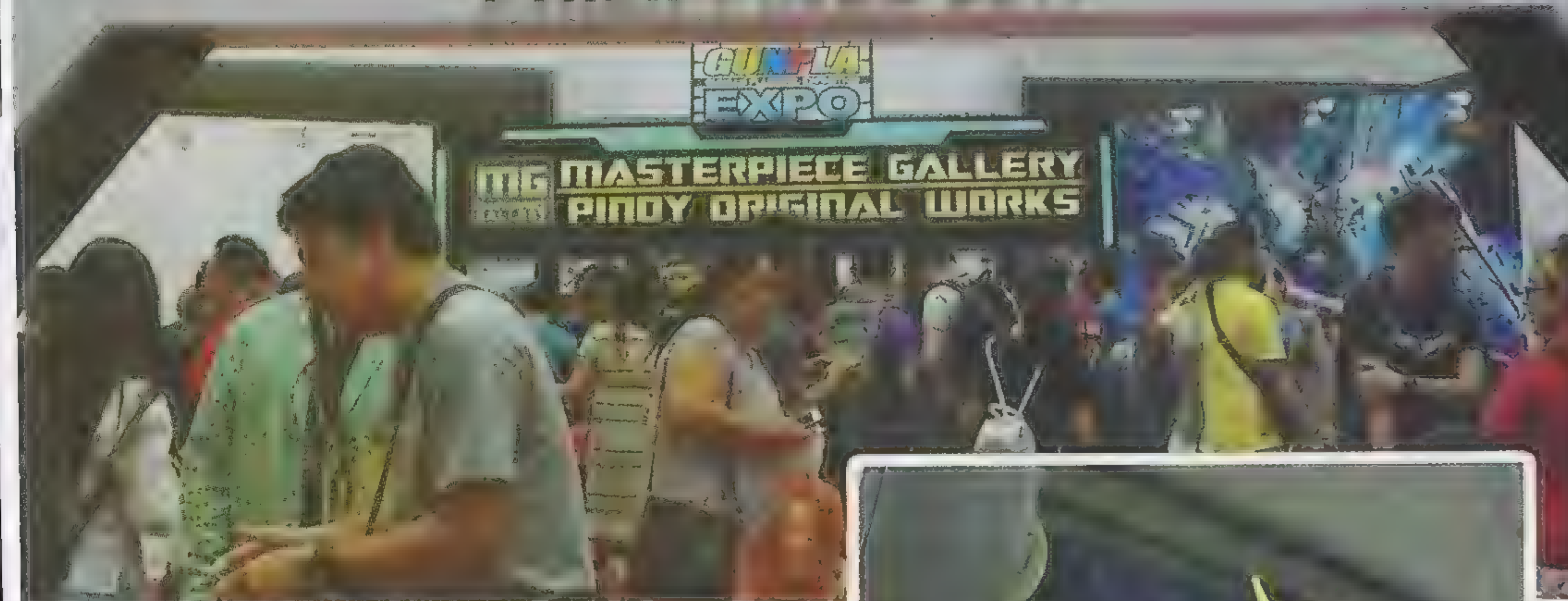
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GUNPLA EXPO WAS AN EXPO



PHILIPPINES 2017



Gundam and Gunpla fans all over the world come together at the Gunpla Expo World Tour in the South East Asian region (Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand) and this is the country's first exposition! With free admission and raffle, the Gunpla Expo World Tour Philippines 2017 was held last 25 February to 5 March 2017 at the SM Mall of Asia, Main Mall Atrium.

The limited edition model kits available were:

- SD Legend BB Zero Gundam [Special Coating Ver.]
- HGUC 1/144 Victory Two Assault Buster Gundam
- RG 1/144 00 Raiser Trans-Am Clear ver.
- HG 1/144 Char Aznable's Zaku II [Metallic Finish]
- HGBF 1/144 Bearguy III [San] Double Happiness Ver.
- MG 1/100 hi-nu Gundam H.W.S. Ver. Ka [EXPO Clear ver.]



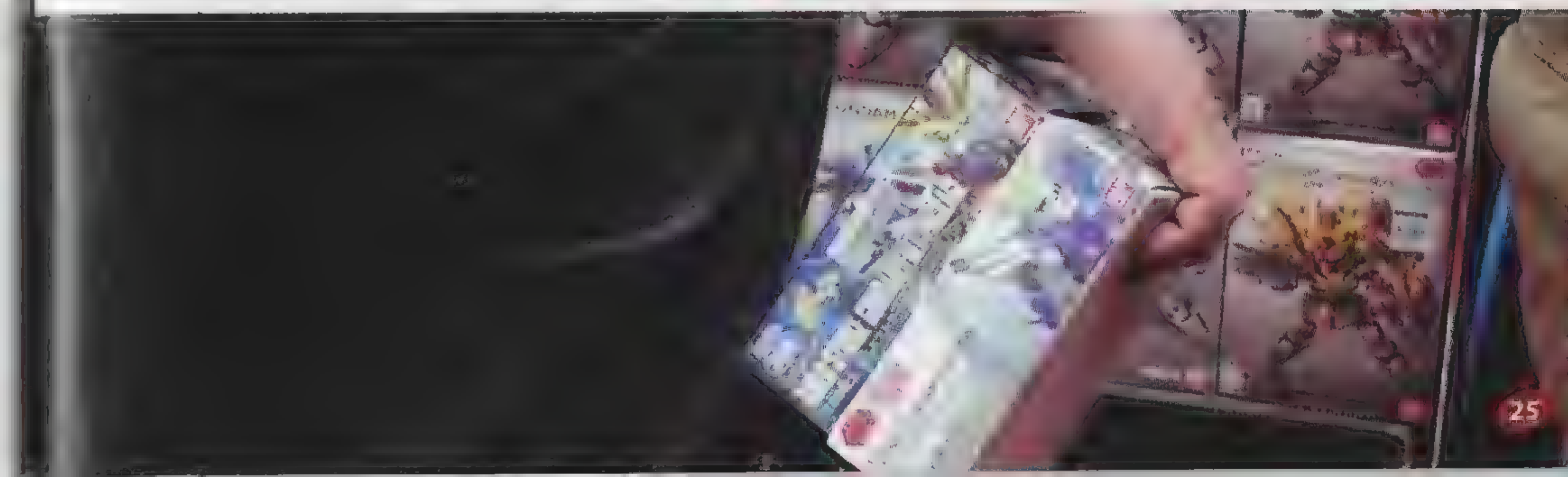
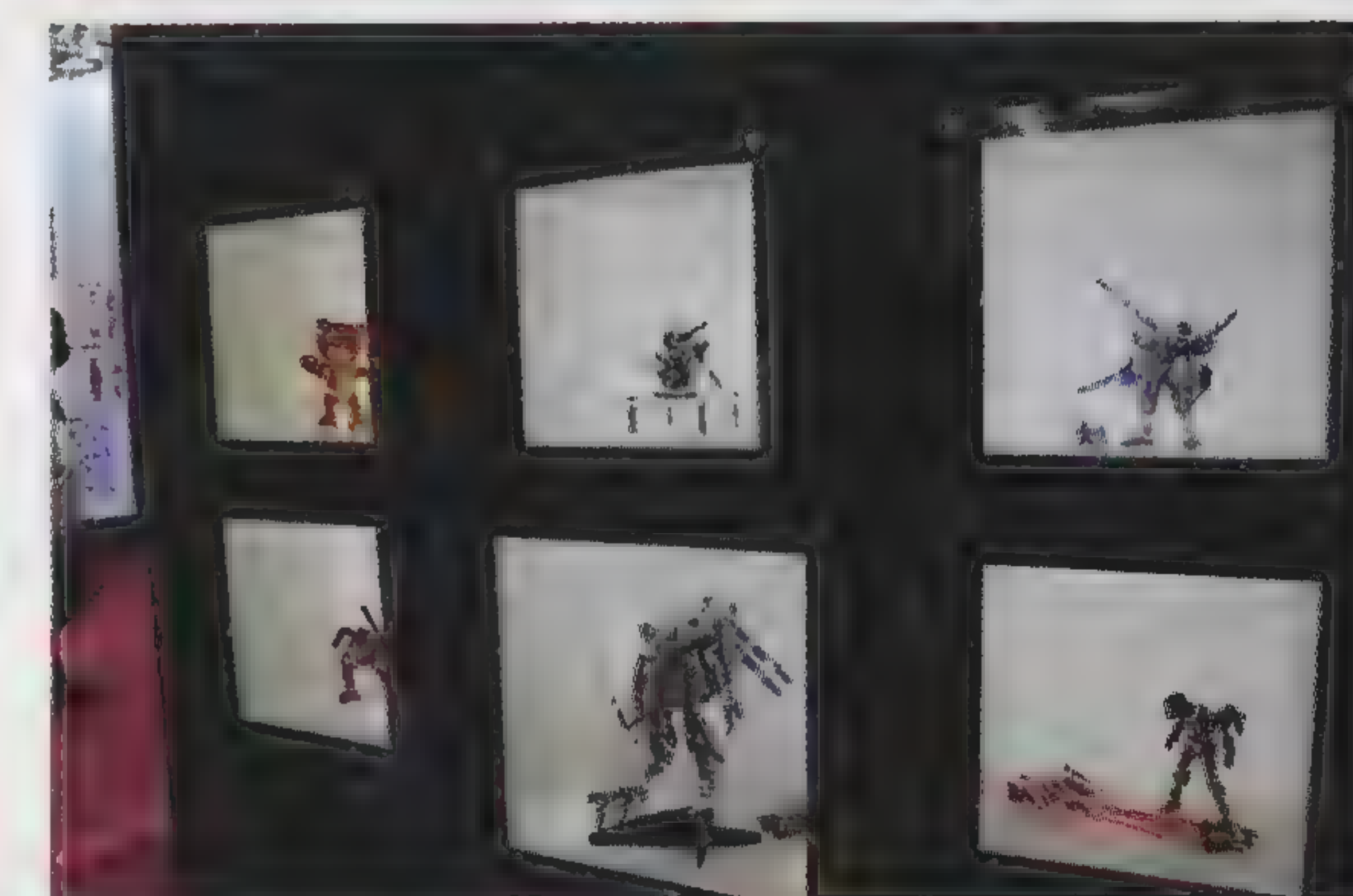
Early January, a photo of a flyer became viral for announcing the event. The event did as they promised: 3-meter tall, Gundam RX-78 2 Statue, a Philippines version of a Bearguy diorama, various other Gunpla model exhibits and MG Gundam exhibits.

While many expected something more, the event is an exposition (collection of goods for public display) and to sell merchandise under Toy Kingdom and Bandai. The expo promoted Gundam, Gunpla and Iron Blooded Orphans. I found myself explaining to my non-otaku friend the anime because a whole side of the expo had relevant displays.

One of the display we enjoyed was the Masterpiece Gallery Pinoy Original works. They had a vote and win promo and I voted for a specific MG build. The winner, Mr. Jose Ryan Cruz with his "Turn X Chameleon". There were also various raffles from Gundam Philippines FB page to hype up the event (it worked~) It was on the last days that I came to see the expo and it was great. Since I am not anymore updated with the hobby, it was great to see new fans and future builders see what we are so into. Thank you and congratulations to Gundam Philippines!

After the event follows a Gundam Model Kit Caravan in various Toy Kingdom and Toy Express branches giving Free Gundam Model kits running from March to May.

Follow:
facebook.com/GundamPhilippines



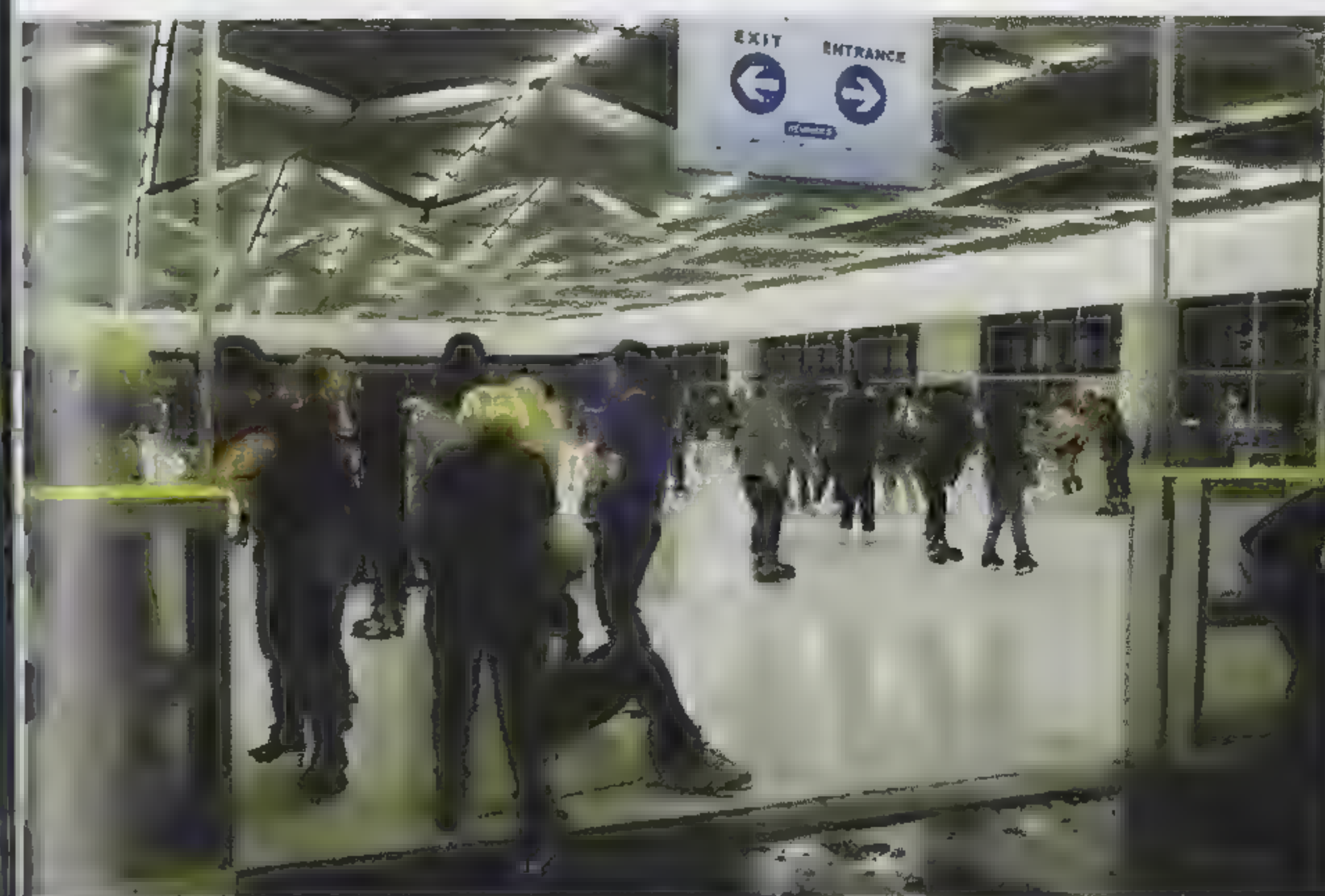


THE SKATING EVENT FOR THE SKATING ANIME

John Samuel Minas posted a video of himself skating to Yuri!!! on Ice and became a sensation

So the anime has ended and there is no (absolutely) clear sign of a sequel but while waiting, why not meet up with fellow Yuri on Ice fans? In what organizer Trisha Descallar thought when the Yuri!!! on Ice fan gathering was created.

The event was creatively entitled Born to Make History and the fans were addressed as "history makers." Their first announcement was welcomed greatly by the fans and the preselling of the tickets were quickly sold out! Since the organizers cannot possibly let EVERYONE get inside Bayanihan Center, the pre-sold tickets were highly recommended over on-site ticket buyers. They even announced a pre-party!!



The pre-party was titled Hear my Heartbeat following the main event's song lyric-inspired name. Otaku Asia were able to cover the event with our friends from arkadymac.com!

As with every event, the day started with a long line. SM Megamall skating rink was still open to the public before the event time. The event had a cosplay competition for both costume and ootd so attendees were already in costume or wearing YOI-inspired clothing. Many wore jackets from our partner, Perry In Disguise!

When the gates opened, the first thing to do was to get skates. Yes. This event let all their participants try the ice. Many thanks to SM Ice Skating Megamall and the Philippine Skating Union.

One of the most awaited was our very own figure skater and coach Joel Minas performed Yuri Katsuki's Eros. Wearing a costume by Alec (O-kun Fiesta 2 guest), he entranced the crowd with his Eros.

Afterwards, the rink was open to public!

All aboard the icy hell. Not everyone knew how to skate and most of them started holding the walls for the first round. By the next hour, many were skating freely (though shaky) in the middle of the rink. We spotted Monique Dimanlig, Sage of Bishounen Society and Alec Descallar of Cosplay Medics.

People had fun on ice but mostly were looking forward to the main event:

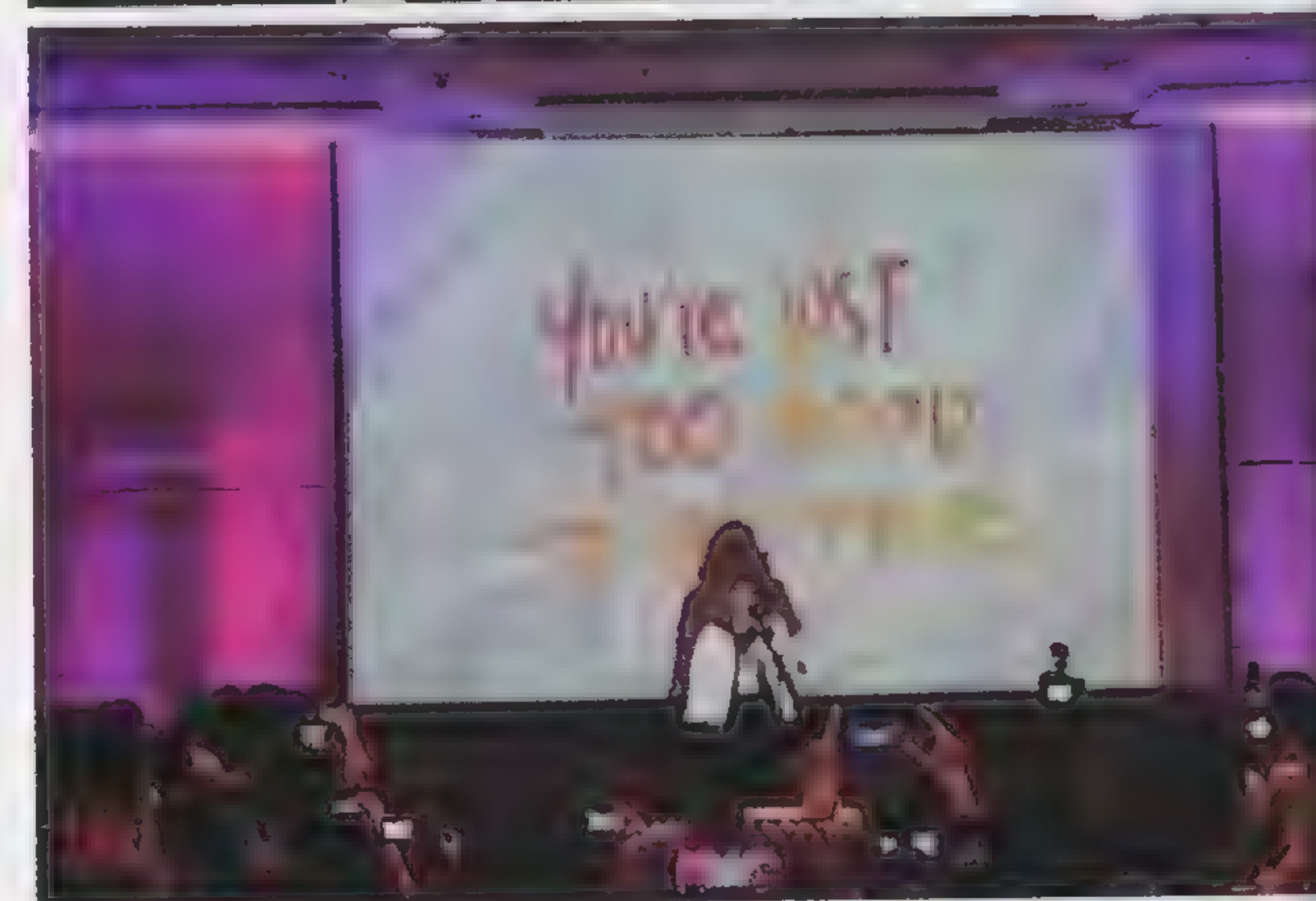
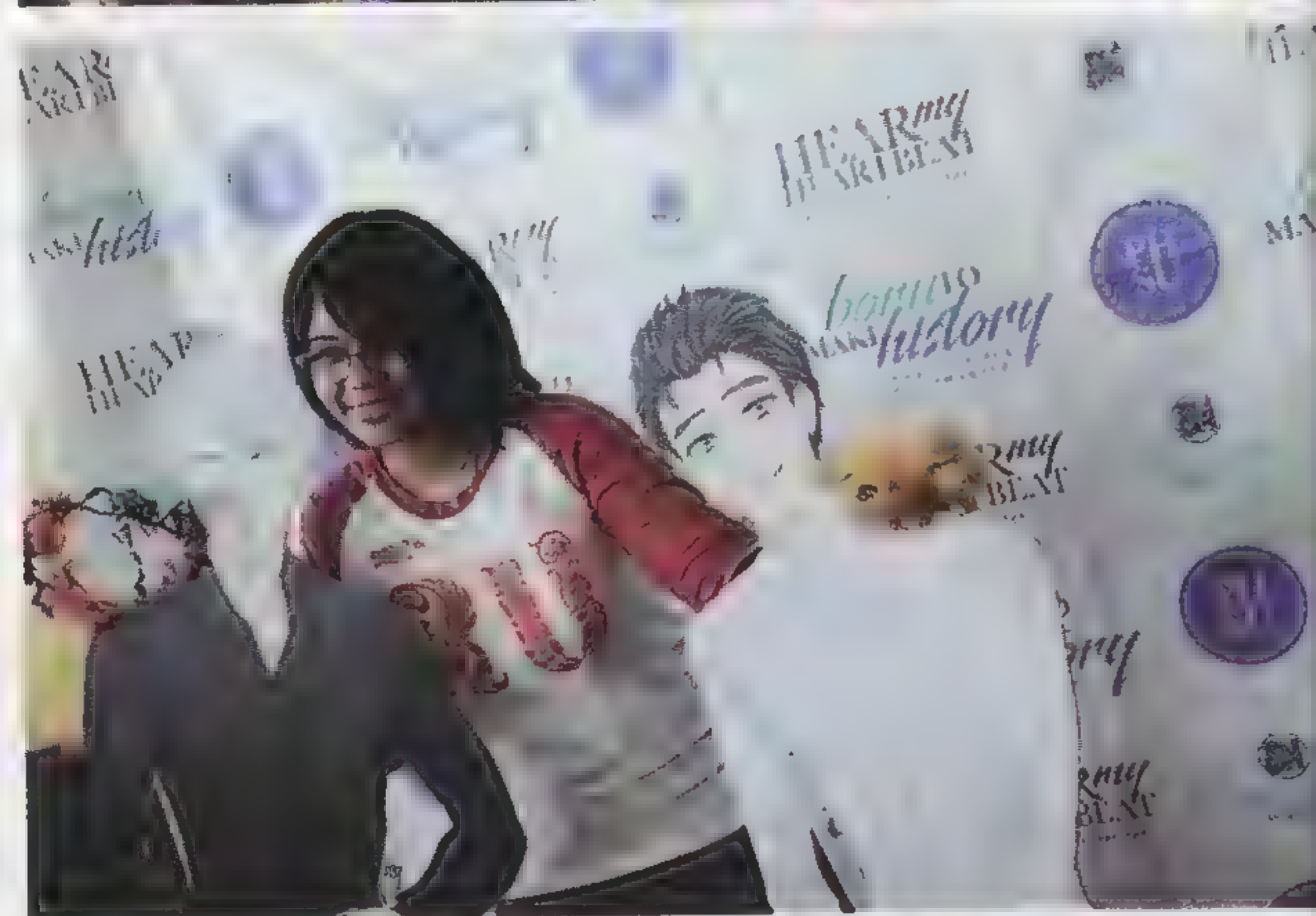
The one thing to describe the event was **PACKED**. It was just like the Grand Prix in Barcelona. People everywhere! Which is actually a good thing for the artists who were selling their prints, the shops selling original merchandise along the hallway and the fans who can't get enough of Viktor, Yuri, Pichit, Judee Zee and Joel Minas.

The main event was situated inside a relatively small space (compared to Komikon) and was busy with artist tables, stage programs and lectures. While we greatly appreciated any otaku event with actual lectures, the venue was too small and unaccommodating. People would get distracted by the artist tables and sometimes it gets too noisy.

However, no one was definitely distracted during the stage time of our favorite artists: Judee Zee. She is a graphic artist, singer and songwriter. Onstage she performed YOI-inspired songs made with her own lyrics and other popular song melodies. The crowd knew her songs from the internet and sang along.

After that, we went around the venue again and got to take our photos with Viktor and Yuri on their free photobooth. The standees from the pre-party was also there (the pair wearing Philippine Skating Team jackets). There were more cosplayers come the afternoon and fewer people.

We came back to the stage just in time to catch Joel Minas answering fan questions. Along with the anime, he has inspired many Filipinos to take up skating as a sport or a hobby. Otaku Asia included.



Well done

Words cannot describe just how much we enjoyed the two events. As Yuri!! on Ice fans and as event media, we are greatly impressed the work that the group has done. We congratulate Trisha Descallar, Nix de Pano, Alec Descallar, the staff and volunteers, the individual artists behind their tables, fellow event media, exhibitors and guests for making the event possible. Even thanks to the attendees for supporting the anime, the event and the organizers.

It was a tremendous success and the biggest fan gathering we have ever seen!! Looking forward to more gatherings in the metro!



WORTH THE TRIP TO CEBU

It was my first time in Cebu and did not know anyone (save the organizers of UP Otakufest) so I made a research of the places I just have to go to during my trip and one of them was the first Pokemon theme cafe called Pokemasters Cafe at Gen. Maxilom Avenue Cebu City.

Going there was no biggie, it was along a main road but was beside non-business and was like the only shop around. Sadly as well, the place wasn't a Pokestop for Pokemon Go (but could soon be).

Entering the shop, it was cool and refreshing despite it being a hot day. The place was clean and had one comfort room (please use the Pokemon slippers). Why slippers? Because you'll be barefoot (or in socks) to enter their cubicles. The place had nine cubicles (or spaces?) where you sit on the floor and eat your order. The compartments have corresponding elements. I chose the yellow one for Team Instinct and it had yellow pillows with Pokemon print and a HUGE Jolteon stufftoy!!! Other Pokemon stufftoys were also present, Snorlax, Pikachu, Squirtle, Vulpix, Vaporeon and more!! It was a bit later when I realized that above the table was this dreamcatcher made to look like Pokemon too!! Fangirling imminent.

Then came my food. I ordered spicy ramen, matcha cupcake and mango smoothie and all of it was wonderful. They have recently added rice meals after listening to customer suggestions. Of course since it was a cafe, coffee and frappe were available along with smooties and snacks (fries, cupcakes, cookies, banana split).

The shop has a loyalty reward card in a form of badges and since I could not possibly complete it, I cry.



The place itself was calming. Despite a tiny TV screen and small space, the ambiance made me want to stay forever. I came on a Friday afternoon during school hours so it was expected that there were not many customers. When they started having some, the place lit up and it was fun. There was a couple who tried on the Pokemon kigurumi (Japanese onesies) available for anyone to try.

Another nice touch was that their female staff had a Nurse Joy inspired uniform. It was so cute I had to ask her to pose.

Theme cafes are hit now in Manila with cat and dog cafes, Harry Potter cafe, Plane Bistro, UKE Box Caffe (not THAT uke, it's ukelele), Precious Moments cafe, a frickin jail restaurant (need we go on?)... when will Manila have one like this too? It is a sure hit concept especially with the grow of Pokemon Go in the country. Cosplayers would even come and shoot a bit. It would be fun.

While we did not get to talk with owner, it's clear that he and his partner are into Pokemon. The two are focusing on establishing the main branch before expanding and it could mean that we have to rely on our Cebuano masters to encourage them to expand!

As of writing, their opening promo is on going and they are giving away quite a few big prizes: New Nintendo 3DSXL Solgaleo Lunala Black Edition, Pokemon Sun, Big Pikachu stufftoy and gift checks! All just by liking and sharing the original post. I wonder who will get the 3DS XL and I wonder if they have a Pokestop now and if they will have parties and events on the cafe. Follow: facebook.com/pokemasterscafecebu



CON IN FOCUS

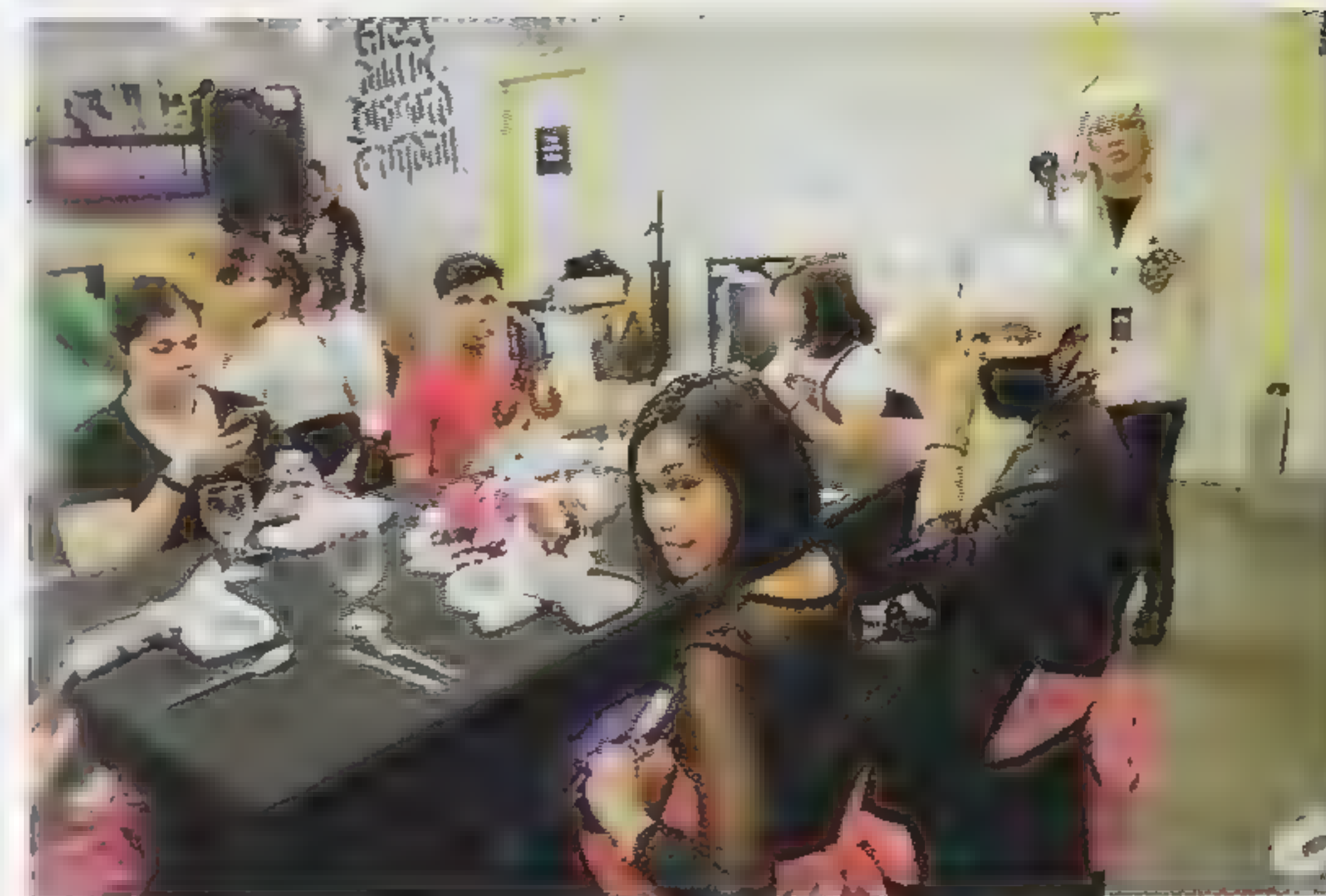
THE EVERLASTING PARTY: MAGENTA

by kandy

Under the scorching heat of that day, inside a limited event space; a party was being held. This party, however is not organized by Mint Eye as you may think it is but by RFA and special guests.

Magenta: A Mystic Messenger Event + Cafe is organized by Hourglass.org on the 5th of March inside Warehouse Eight Makati. The event welcomed all walks of life but specifically, Mystic Messenger players. **Mystic Messenger** is a South Korean female oriented visual novel game developed by Cheritz and is widely popular in the country as a female-oriented otome mobile game.

Upon entrance, you will be welcomed by standees of the characters, 707 and Jumin Han. Upon registration (the event required pre-registration), you will enter the artist tables. It was full of artworks and fan arts for the game! And when we say 'full' we meant we almost can't fit between tables.



You'd look forward to the main event on the next room. They have set six long tables and decorations for a special service. Upon online pre-registration, you will be made to choose a menu based on the characters: 707, Jaehee, Zen, Jumin, Yoosung, Unknown and V.

The cafe is divided into four (4) endings / sessions:

1. The Normal Ending
2. The Good Ending
3. The Bad Ending
4. The Secret Ending ALL VIPs

and all servers were in costume based on Mystic Messenger characters and they would all greet their customer as MC (main character).

Each character would be assigned to a table and would serve a maximum of six MCs. They would serve the food, entertain and play games with their MC for a good hour and a half.

If an MC liked their server well enough and was pleased with the entertainment provided, they may ask for a selfie or an Instax shot.

There were several interesting games that the characters played and all of these were true to character. 707 would make and break jokes. Jumin actually made his MCs answer an exam. Zen was playing kissing games and lover dice. The characters would also be dressed according to their story. In the Bad Ending, Yoosung was in bandages and something terrible happened to V. I was all fun and games and all to please the MCs who came to support the cafe.

Every cafe would end with a group shot per table. We heard from some MCs that the cafe exceeded expectations and would have liked to have more time with the cosplayers.



We were thankful for the opportunity to see Hourglass' fine work and dedication to the game. They handled situations well and got thorough the big things.

The space and the weather was an issue but as for the experience, we would not mind having another event like this again! Even as someone who does not play Mystic Messenger, I could tell the effort from the cosplayers to stay in character and to entertain their customers.

Hourglass team looked like they were having the most fun while also exhausting themselves through four service times. It was a challenge but it was worthwhile since the MCs enjoyed the event and there were many high praises online as well.

We certainly look forward to another pop up fan cafe from Hourglass.



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AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING TOYS "R" US BRANCHES: GALLERIA, TRINOMA, POWER PLANT MALL, GLORJETTA

When Red Monster Shop owner, Ms Grace Pajarillo announced that she is thinking of a Haikyuu theme cafe, I was one of the first to be interested. At first the idea was to have it on February 14, Valentines Day and a second cafe on March 14, White Day.

The March 14 pushed through and was greatly received by Haikyuu fans all over Manila. The entry price was negotiated, the cosplayers casted and when the doors opened, we were ready. Actually, we got lost on the way.

Red Monster Cafe + Shop is located at Luisa Building 2, 107 Maginhawa St. QC. and going there takes a bit if walking and several jeepney rides. Use Google Map (not Waze) or Sakay.ph app. the annoying thing was that I have been to the place before and still got lost. /sendHelp

We arrived a few after Lunch started and everyone was working hard. Well except Tsukishima and Yamaguchi who came in late (was that planned?? Because it was really cool). As expected, the Lunch service was packed with guests from the main room to the 'otaku room'. This was the cafe's first service and the orders came in slowly but the energy was high and alive. Selfies were taken, Pockys were eaten and games played.

After that flurry of fluff, the cast ate their lunch and got only a little time of rest because Recess started. Initially, there were cosplayers set for every session to let others rest but because the cafe was so busy and packed, the cast helped on the service when they can and napped when they can. The customers this time were quite few and even my staff and I had time to rest our cameras and eyes.

It was during this lull time that we saw a dog. A tiny dog peeking out of the private room (area for the owners). My staff and I spent a solid five minutes just gawking at the puppy in diapers. It was a grey Maccachin.



For the Dinner session, Otaku Asia enjoyed being the customer. We were sat at the 'otaku room' where we had low tables and sat on cushions on the floor. For the most part, it looked like a viewing room where customers can watch anime or during the theme cafe, the Haikyuu Live Action!!

Our orders were taken by Kuroo and Kenma. Both of whom have been working since the first session but still greeted us with bright smiles. While waiting for our orders, Oikawa came to introduce the Pocky game while Suga and Kageyama promoted Hinata's print pictures. It was very lively even for us.

When our orders came, it was hot, fresh and yummy. I ordered the Katsudon-don-dooooon~ and Tsukki's Strawberry Kiwi Soda. My staff ordered oya! oya! oya! oyakudon! and Kageyama's Strawberry Vanilla Soda. It was really cute because Kuroo would say oya! oya! oya! everytime he heard it. It was very tasty and big! I did not expect it to be a big serving but it really filled us up well.

We didn't get to try the cupcakes but it was alright because Ms Grace promised a second run they have teased as "Season 2" which could mean new characters like Bokuto and Akaashi, Ushijima and Tendou and maybe more Karasuno and Nekoma players. Hopefully our managers too?

Well' without thinking much into it, we had fun and enjoyed the most of the cafe.

We have to forgive Red Monster Cafe for a few misses, it was understandable. They have promised to learn and improve through time. An approved page has emerged "RMS Haikyuu Cosplayer Protection Squad" to protect the privacy of the cafe and their cosplayers. They have asked to take down sensitive images from the event from public posts. Thank you Ms Grace and Ms Mao!! All wishes and please remember us next cafe! (As of writing, they are opening auditions for Osomatsu-san cafe)





Okun3 FIESTA

MEGATRADE HALL 3 + FUNCTION ROOMS

May 14, 2017

okunfiesta.otakuasia.com

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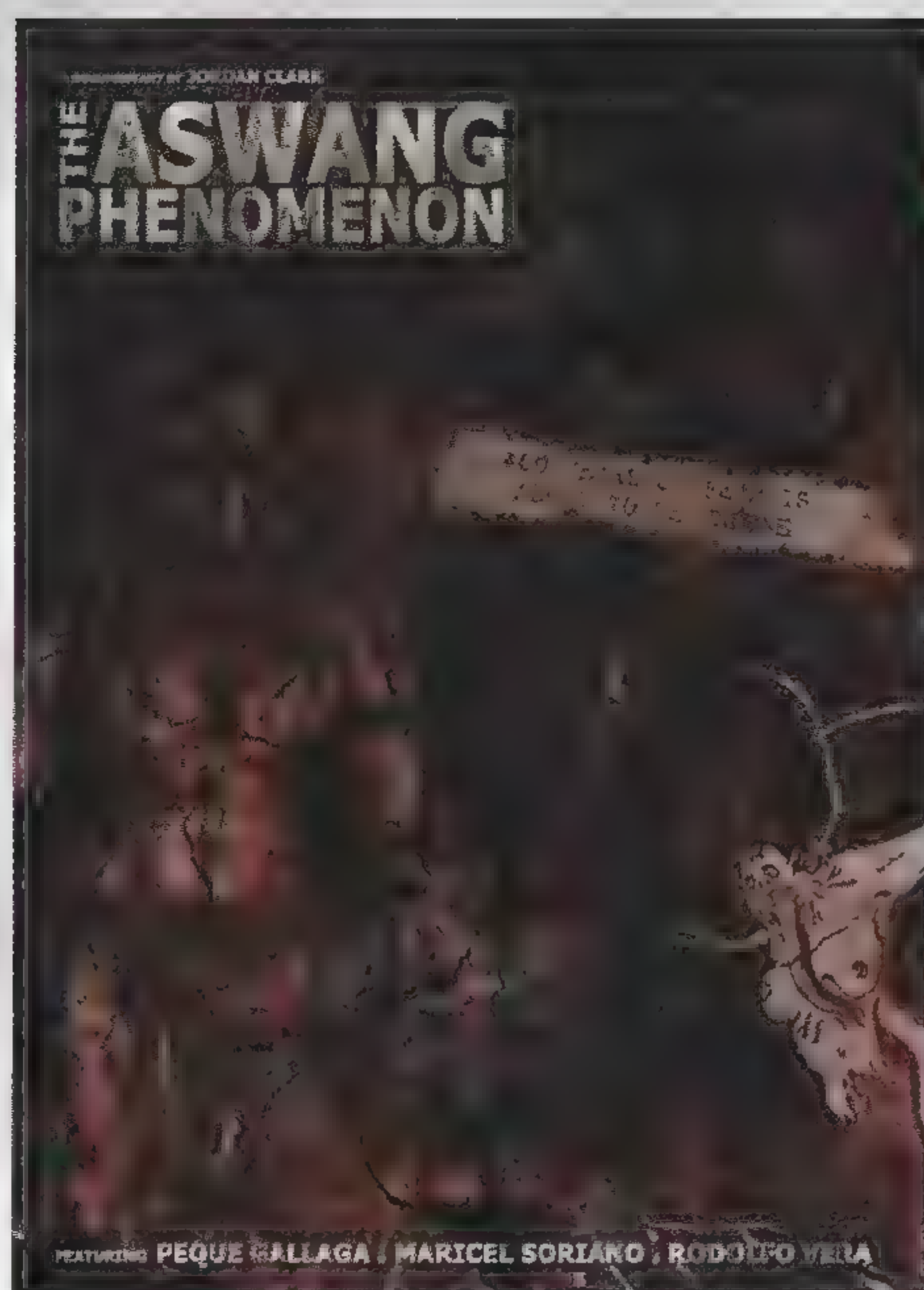
illustrations by Xander Ramos



KNOW YOUR CREATURES WELL

THE ASWANG PROJECT

Dwelling in the forests and deep into the shadows of the night, mythical creatures thrive to exist, but there is a way to learn more about them. That is, through, **The Aswang Project!**



A body of work that started way back in 2011, The Aswang Project set about as a documentary called "The Aswang Phenomenon" in cooperation with **High Banks Entertainment Ltd.** to unravel the identity of the aswang. In his video, producer **Jordan Clark** provides an account of the aswang as nobody has done before — describing it in the five variations that this creature has become known for: one as a manananggal, another as a ghoul stealing corpses, another as a shape-shifter, then as a witch, and finally as a vampire. Of course while these descriptions are used, they are only there to provide the audience with reference. They do not necessarily equate the aswang to the Western mythological creatures as the aswang is an original Filipino concept.

While mythical creatures appear to be simply a pigment of the imagination in the modern era, they are alive in stories of old and persist throughout the ages. The Philippines is rich in mythology and folklore, and so, The Aswang Project expanded its operation through its web series, website and social media.

The web series focused on 6 creatures:

the tiyanak, the diwata, the kapre, the bakunawa, the tikbalang, and the manananggal.

Its site is subdivided into sections including detailed descriptions of creatures, myths grouped according to their origins/regions, news, and even travel destinations involved in the supernatural. As expected, beyond the aswang, the project brought other important creatures in our myths to the people. Meanwhile, on its social media sites, The Aswang Project is actively reaching out to a wider audience to keep them in the know. In addition, artworks are all over the place because they are products of true Philippine mythology.

By finding out more about these creatures, we are also reimagining our history even before the Spaniards had come to form another interpretation of them. As the sources of information evolve, The Aswang Project seeks to reinforce the idea that folk stories are not meant to be forgotten as they are also reflections of the culture of past generations as well as their endeavors.

Thus, the past is bridged to the future with great pride on the diversity found at our own backyard, both literally and figuratively. Know more about our creatures, creatures not to be simply feared but to be proud of as they are our own, through The Aswang Project.

THE ASWANG PROJECT



/aswangmovie



/aswangmovie



/HighBanksE

O-kun3 FIESTA

To thank our loyal and ever growing readers, Otaku Asia Magazine's annual event, O-kun Fiesta is back for a third time.

Scheduled for May 14, Sunday at SM Megatrade Hall 3, 5th Level, Mega B, SM Megamall, this year's, O-kun Fiesta is themed Hana Festival to celebrate the growth of the community, the magazine's readership and Flores de Mayo; staying true to their promise of promoting locality.

O-kun Fiesta's pride, Cosplay Parade is the only cosplay competition in the Philippines that focuses on the "-play" in 'cosplay'. With only 10% grade for costume, the competition aims to bring back why we cosplay: to pretend and BE the character; while also accepting costumes that are self made, bought, crafted or made-to-order. This year, participants will parade around Mega A and B! The grand winner will get P 10,000 worth of prizes.

Otaku Asia is a lifestyle magazine and it makes sense that their event will also have similar content: with tutorials, lectures and panels, O-kun Fiesta is a fiesta of knowledge as we take fanartist surfaçage, cosplayer and crafter Lyron Aquino and otaku media blogger, Christian Mack to the stage. Introducing and promoting local talents and artists remains the goal of O-kun Fiesta.

Ticket is P150 at the door.



MEGATRADE HALL 3 + MEETING ROOM A & B

May 14, 2017

okunfiesta.otakuasia.com

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OUR HOSTS



JILLIAN



NARU



ENVY

OUR GUESTS



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CREATOR OF AND THE WORLD WILL TURN TO ASH
FAN ARTIST
SURFACAGE.NET

CHRISTIAN MACK
CREATOR OF ARKADYMAC.COM
OTAKU MEDIA



LYRON AQUINO

CRAFTER AT CYBACK METAFUSION PROP SHOP
COSPLAYER



illustrations by Xander Ramos

O-kun3 FIESTA

EVENT SCHEDULE

10AM -11AM OPENING REMARKS
 11AM -12PM MINI GAMES
 12PM -1PM GUEST TIME
 1PM -2PM MINI GAMES
 2PM -3PM COSPLAY PARADE
 3PM -4PM
 4PM -5PM GUEST TIME
 5PM -6PM UNMEI JAPQUIZ BATTLE
 6PM -7PM GUEST TIME
 7PM-8PM CONTEST AWARDING

schedule subject to change

GENERAL DETAILS

O-kun Fiesta is an event held inside SM Megatrade and there could be other events being held in the same venue where many people may not know about cosplay. Do not behave in a manner that would poorly reflect on you or O-kun Fiesta event.

- No ticket no entry
- Surrender lost and found items to the Registration Booth or to any O-kun Fiesta staff in uniform.
- Don't leave your things unattended at the Activity Area. Organizer will not be responsible for any lost belongings.
- There will be a baggage counter provided.
- If they are any questions on the event itself, you may inquire them at the Registration booth.
- The layout of the venue and event schedule are subject to change without prior notice.
- O-kun Fiesta, Otaku Asia and venues are not responsible for any conflict between attendees. You are expected to manage personal conflicts on your own.
- O-kun Fiesta staff and security have the right to ask you to leave the premises and refuse refund the cost of your ticket if you are behaving inappropriately.

PROHIBITED

Bringing of pet/animals
 Flammable materials
 Littering
 Helium balloons
 Painting of props, especially for cosplayers
 No smoking inside
 Bringing of liquor

ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

O-kun Fiesta enforces a strict "anti-harassment" policy. This policy applies to everyone present at the convention: attendees, staff, guests, exhibitors, etc. O-kun Fiesta staff will not tolerate harassment of any kind, including but not limited to:

physical assault or battery
 non-consensual photography, recording and physical contact, inappropriate physical contact
 intimidation, stalking, bathroom policing
 inappropriate language
 destruction of private property
 sustained disruption of lectures, panels, signing, contest and/or other events
 disrespectful and rude behavior, threats

Contact any staff member if you have experienced or witnessed harassment immediately!



illustrations by Xander Ramos



CON IN FOCUS

by Elaine

RFA Party, by MC for MCs

Inspired by the blooming otome game *Mystic Messenger*, the *Mystic Messenger* Fans Day: RFA Party x Valentine Matsuri brought the RFA (Rika's Funding Association) Party into real life gathering several MCs in the Philippines at Loving Rainbow Events Garden, Tandang Sora, Quezon City last February 18, 2017.

Three months prior, event founder Kimberly Sabino, also known in the cosplay world as **Loki Heart**, started promoting the event hyping up all the players and avid fans of *Mystic Messenger* in the country. *Mystic Messenger* is a female-oriented visual novel game released in spring 2016 and developed by Cheritz, a company based in South Korea. In the game, you get the chance to be the sweetheart of one of the seven gorgeous characters in just 11 days (per route). During these precious 11 days, you have the chance to chat, text or even talk through calls (with automated response) with them anytime of the day. Its unique game structure compared to other otome games has captured the young hearts of female smartphone users all over the world.

We should not miss the fact that the in-game RFA Party is a charity event. **Loki Heart**, therefore, made sure that the RFA Party x Valentine Matsuri will also be an event devoted to help those who are in need. Part of the ticket sales and other sales will be donated to **Grace to be Born Maternity Home and Nursery**, a shelter for women in crisis with an advocacy against abortion. **Grace to be Born** was established in 2009, and the place serves as a temporary shelter for unwed mothers, who are seeking shelter and second chance at life, and also an orphanage, which serves as a haven for the children born there.

"Cosplay is not about profit and fame; it is about giving."
- **Loki Heart**

The main goal of this event is to raise funds to donate to their selected charity. Aside from the ticket sales, they also collected items which were auctioned in the event, and through the help of all the MCs and other guests, they were able to gather a fair amount of money and goods to be donated. Attendees were delighted that they could help their fellow people while they also enjoyed their moments in the event.



RFA Cafe

Seven hired models were chosen to do role play as Yoosung, Zen, Jaehee, Jumin, 707, V, and Saeran and entertain the lovely guests as butlers in the RFA Cafe. Those who availed the SVIP Ticket and Special Pass were given the chance to spend sweet time with their favorite characters, while also enjoying some special treats (plus Honey Butter Chips!) on their tables. Customers were greatly satisfied with the services, for the butlers were fully in-character so the MCs felt like they were really talking to their virtual boyfriends now face to face.

Space Station Wedding Booth

Couple attendees can hold their wedding at the space station, just like how Seven likes it to be! For a reasonable price, their marriage is completed with couple rings, marriage certificate, bridal bouquet and a bridal flower crown for a more memorable moment! Legit hanboks (traditional Korean clothing) were also available for rent.

Butlers' Auction

As if not satisfied with buying only specially printed photos of the guest butlers and all other various goods, the ladies were even more heated up when **Loki Heart** announced that they were also going to auction each butler for a once-in-a-lifetime chance of marrying the character in the Space Station Wedding Booth! The money spent by the overjoyed MCs ranged from 800 to 3 000 php each butler! But it was all worth it, for aside from getting to marry their man, they also got to donate a lot for **Grace to be Born**. What do they say about hitting two birds with one stone?

Valentine Matsuri

As the RFA Party ended at 5PM, the second major part of the event also officially opened. Guests were greeted with opening fireworks and performances by the special guests. For the main event of the Valentine Matsuri, some of the gorgeous boys of the Bishounen Society PH were especially invited to bless the night of the female attendees as they participated in the RFA Matchmaking Event. Our favorite Bishies were asked to choose one girl each from the audience who would be joining them in the game, and the pair who would win will be married in the Space Station! Two lucky MCs ended up having a sweet time with Sage and Rai, and ending their night with a cute exclusive marriage.

The Raffle

Probably the best thing attendees could possibly get from the event, two RFA VIP Packages of *Mystic Messenger* were raffled for the SVIP and VIP ticket holders. Two lucky attendees were able to obtain the said package for the small price of a ticket, which is just about 20% of the price of the RFA VIP package. How lucky can that be!

Keep it sweet under the
summer heat with MOGU MOGU





Otaku at UP Otakufest The Matrix

As early as 9 am, people were playing online games as the event held gaming tournaments such as Overwatch and DoTA 2. We took that time to go around the grounds. There were sponsor booths by My Language Cafe, Jellyfish Education Consultancy, Sykes Asia Inc. and Smart Communications.

A few steps from the gate were activities and contests: The entries for their Original Character Design Competition was posted on a board for all to see. There was also the video contest by Oomph Radio at their booth. The hype was intense!

What is the otaku event without merchandise booths? Not this event. Although the booth locations were scattered, we did not fail to check each one. By the entrance were fanart merchandise which included acrylic charms and prints. Near that was a figure display and sale by the Visayas Anime Figure Collectors. At the side of the soccer field was a row of booths!! We took our time checking out the booths one by one. One of the sellers were in the Arabian Costume by Love Live! There were also a few booths that came all the way from Manila.

The artists were all in a big tent selling prints, stickers, keychains and commissions! It was really fun but the tent gets a bit crowded at times and made it hard to check them all at once.

Further at the back were tents for cosplayers to change. We noticed Cebu cosplayers did not hold back from creating big costumes. Without the constraint of small halls like here in Manila, their wings and tails were free to show off! It was a good change of scenery for us.

CEBU CITY, FEBRUARY - The sun was up with no sign of clouds but everyone at the event was out in the open field. Onstage were a flurry of characters, from Sword Art Online, RWBY, Assassins Creed, The Matrix and more! All came to express their love for Japanese subculture, perform onstage or luckily take a selfie with Singapore's DD Tenka.

The most awaited otaku event in Cebu, UP Otakufest is held in University of the Philippines Cebu Grounds. Started in 2007, this event is held *gakuensai* style or in the format of Japanese school festivals. Aside from Japanese fandom, it has also branched out to include Korean and Western cultures (from metrokelan.com). This is their tenth year and to celebrate, they have chosen to celebrate technological advancements of the 21st century with their theme, The Matrix.





Cosplay groups were also abundant and, for the most important part, complete. Despite the heat, the cosplayers kept their costumes on and and their smiles a plenty.

Getting hungry, we grabbed lunch at the back. There were many food booths!! And many of them were Japanese cuisine inspired: from takoyaki, onigiri to okonomoyaki! But also sisig, hotdogs and lemonade.

In the afternoon, the people started to gather in front of the stage. They cheered for the Korean dance contest and the mini cosplay parade. Then out came the guests for the cosplay competition: renowned cosplayers DD-Tenka and Team EuRika.

Otaku Asia was favored by the gods (and the Otakufest organization team) to get a chance to interview their guests. Inside a classroom, we sat down in front of DD Tenka: guest cosplayer all the way from Singapore. She was cosplaying Viktor from Yuri on Ice!!



OTAKU ASIA: Out of your many invites for guesting, how do you choose which one to attend and why UP Otakufest? DD Tenka: First I need to check the schedule because I'm working. Cebu is quite famous with its food, scenery and the sea. I haven't been here before so I wanted to come to the event and travel around.

So you already have plans? Yes. When I guested in Manila, there wasn't enough time to experience the place but here, I get to stay a little while after the event and enjoy.

You said you have a day job, is this convenient for you or do you see yourself doing cosplay full time? It's not for me. I don't think I would cosplay my whole life. I'd get older and I'd quit someday so I want to do as much as I can now. I also want to keep my job to survive *laughter* so I could also keep doing this.

Do you make your costumes? Mostly yes but some I will buy it. In Singapore the material is cheap and in China they sometimes mass produce so I can buy it cheaper than making it myself.

Taobao? Oh yeah, I Taobao a lot. Wigs and materials. There are more choices in China like the black detail on this costume (Viktor Nikiforov Prince top) is black in the anime but I wanted to be creative and have texture and I found this from Taobao.

How long would a costume take you? For this one researching the costume, finding the fabric, comparing prices took longer than making it itself. I'd take one week to finish it off but it would be after work.

But you get rest, right? Hmm... *laughter* if a shoot is not so close, I'd get more rest.

With photoshoots, who are you with? Currently, it's Kirisaki 2.0 in Singapore. They are not hard to work with and we sometimes have plans together also because we live in the same flat.

DD TENKA comes from 'Ko Tenka', a character from her favorite anime 'Hoshin Engi'

She has been cosplaying for 10 years!



Back in WCS 2015, there was a team from the Philippines that rampaged the red carpet as Kaneki Ken and Kirishima Touka from Tokyo Ghoul. They were called Team XO but now, we know them as EuRika 愛 (Eurika Ai) comprised of Hong Ping-ping Bi and SJ de Ocampo. Otaku Asia was very lucky to have sat with them as well:

OTAKU ASIA: Who makes the costumes and the props?

Ping: I make the props but SJ is better at fabric. We share the work but yeah, we are also still learning.

How do you choose which characters to portray?

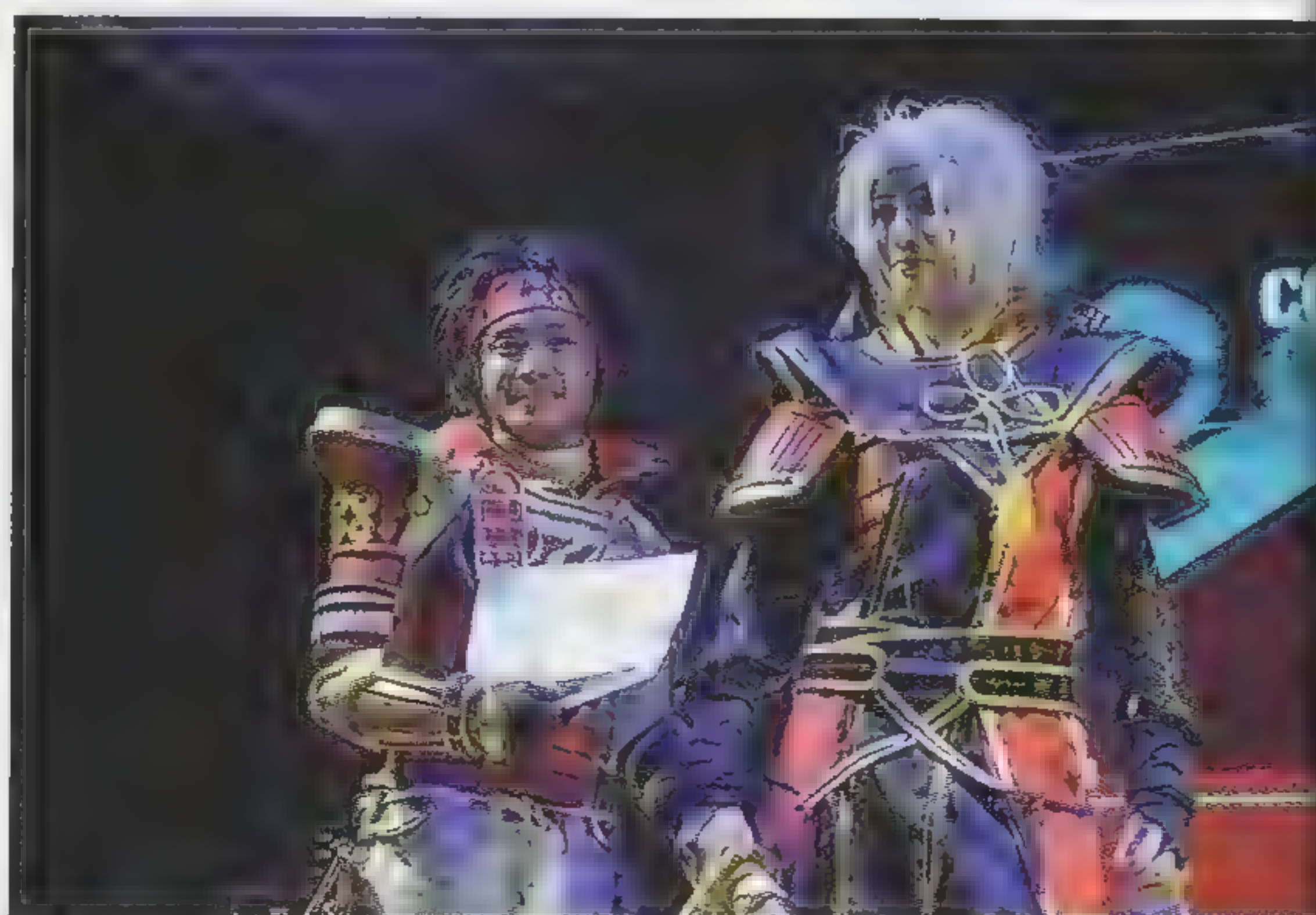
Ping: We generally cosplay what we want to. Sometimes we would cosplay together from the same anime or game but it's always something that we want.
SJ: Like now, I'm from Fate and she's cosplaying from Tales (of Berseria)

(the rest of the interview was saved in my phone which was stolen last Cosplay Carnival.)

I asked about their contributions to the local cosplay community and we were very happy to know that they

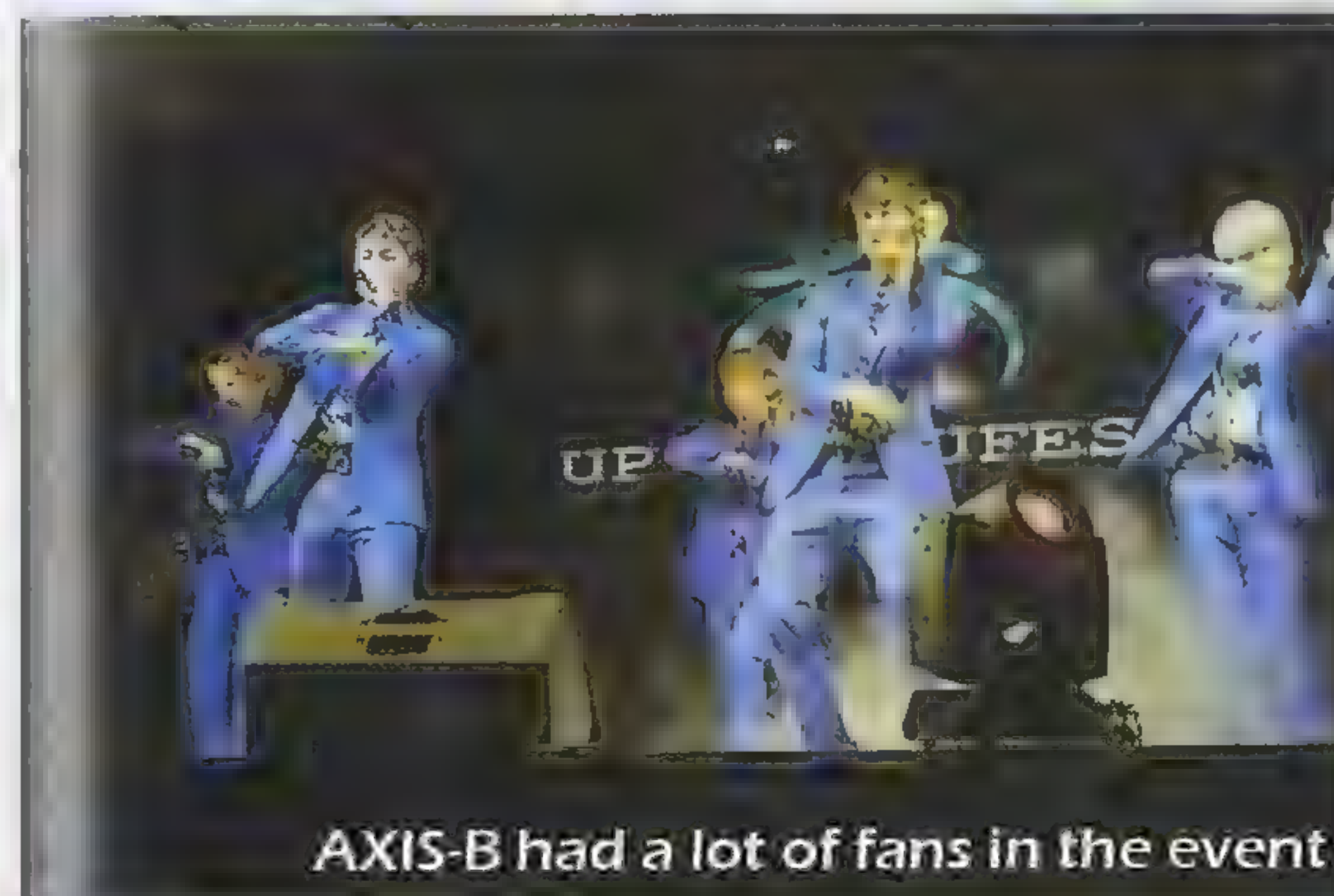
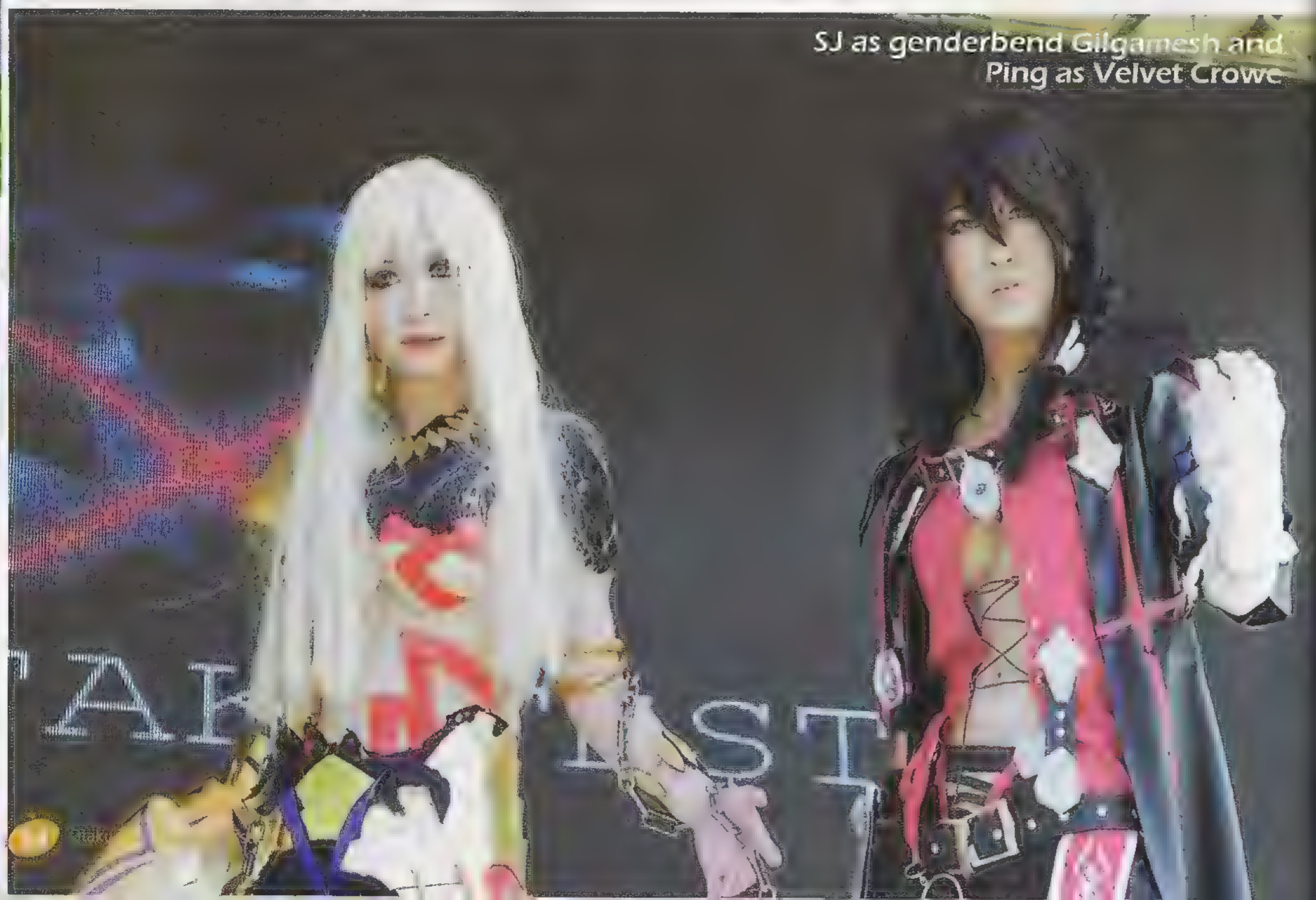
have been sharing cosplay tutorials and WIP photos on their social media. The community has been very supportive but SJ mentioned that they also did not want to make the fans dependent on them. Cosplay is a hobby but also an art which is not always taught. Those who wants to be successful has to work hard, figure shortcuts on their own and learn as the team did.

Along with DD Tenka, they judged the cosplay contest where many followed the event theme: Matrix.



Class S wins grand prize for cosplay

SJ as genderbend Gilgamesh and Ping as Velvet Crowe



AXIS-B had a lot of fans in the event



The sun started to set and the event went on with their dance contests, band performances and awarding. The cosplay guests went to their hotel (came back in casual and enjoyed the event), the crowd became dense, the smoke machines were on and the lights turned blue. It was time for the concert.

As mentioned, UP Otakufest is not just for Japanese sub-culture enthusiasts anymore. They have included more fans and talents to welcome bigger crowd celebrating their interests together.

They invited Korean pop group AXIS-B to perform. It was clearly a night to remember. The group even considered their otaku crowd and performed a song by ARASHI which we all appreciated and enjoyed.

As our first Visayas event coverage, UP Otakufest raised the standard quite high with their hard working staff, great programs and fun booths. We look forward to next year expecting a quality event for otaku and fans alike. -OA



SINNICH
My name is 3-1

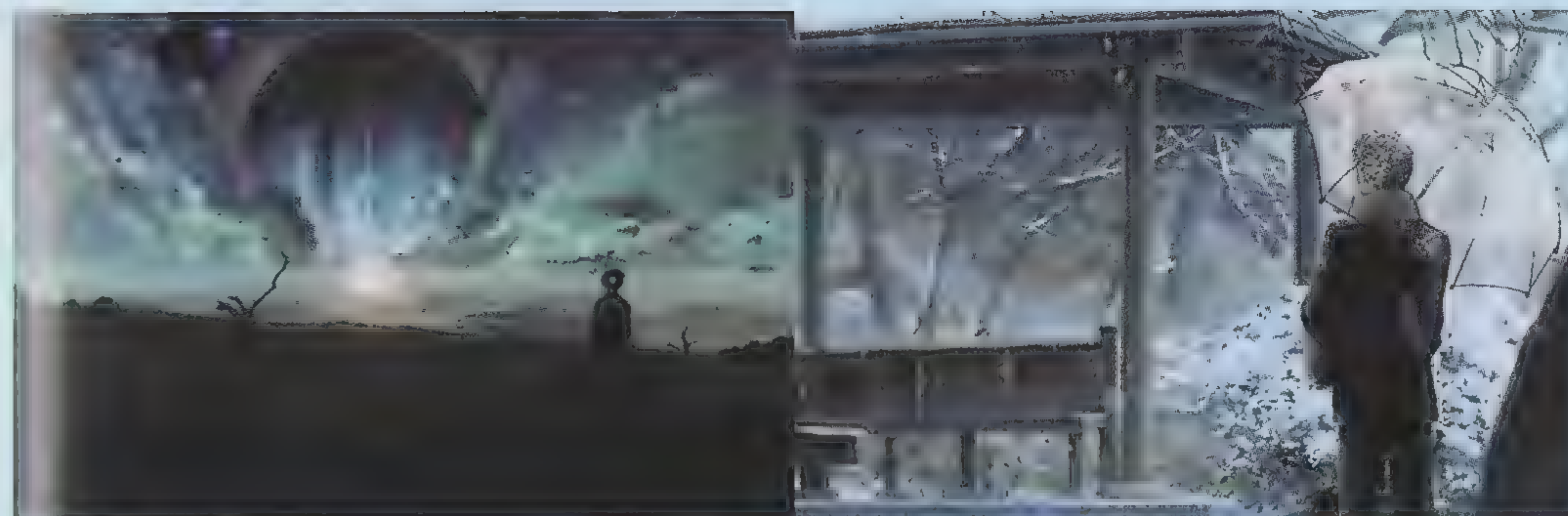
THE FIRST MANILA SHIMBUN CINE CLUB FILM SCREENING

The Manila Shimbun Cine Club, in cooperation with The Japan Foundation Manila and the Film Development Council of the Philippines, organized its first film screening featuring back-to-back Makoto Shinkai films at the TIU Theater Makati last January 26, 2017. Following the success of Makoto Shinkai's *Your Name*, the Manila-based Japanese news organization announced on Facebook that they will be having their first Japanese film screening featuring *The Voices of A Distant Star* and *The Garden of Words*. Entrance was free and the event was open to the public. By 8 PM, TIU Theater was already packed with attendees, both fans of animated films and casual audience alike.

The first film *Voices of a Distant Star* (Hoshi no Koe) did not have English subtitles at first. The organizers noticed this technical error after the first two to three minutes of the screening. After adding the subtitles, they played it again from the start and the audience applauded when they saw the English subtitles. From there, the film screening had been smooth-flowing.

The *Voices of a Distant Star* is a 25-minute original video sci-fi animation in May 2002, written and directed by Makoto Shinkai under the studio CoMix Wave Inc. It tells the story of Mikako Nagamine, a fifteen-year-old space soldier who used to be just a normal high school student until she was recruited by the UN Space Army.

The Japan Foundation Manila's Assistant Director, Mr. Tetsuya Koide, formally opened the event and gave a short introduction on the film showing. He asked the audience if they have seen *Your Name* on the big screen when it was shown last December here in the Philippines, to which the audience responded positively. *Your Name* has become one of the most successful animated films in Japan, surpassing most Studio Ghibli films. This has garnered Makoto Shinkai success and more attention on his other films as well.

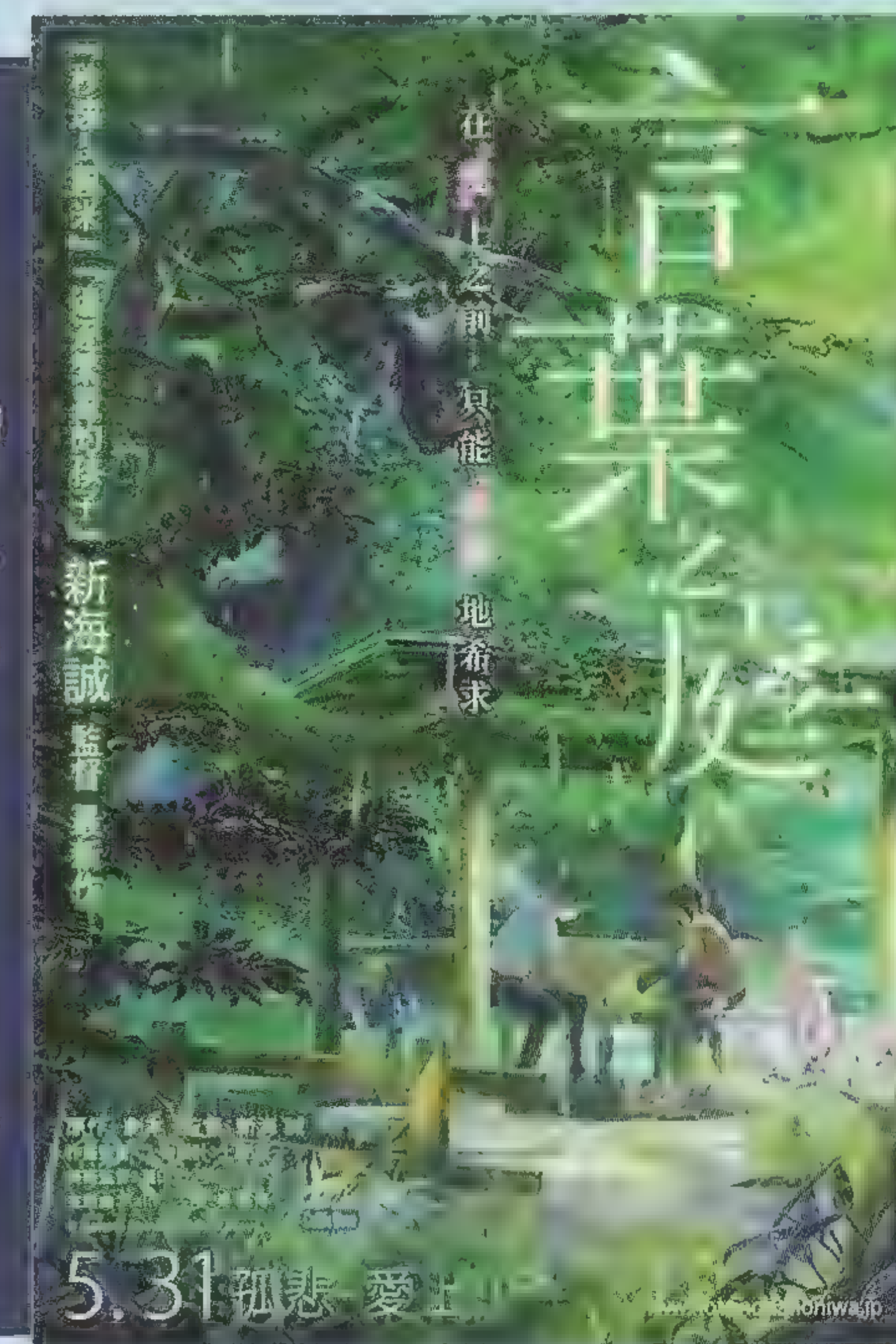


The year is 2047. The Space Army has engaged in a war against a group of aliens called Tarsians that were first discovered on Mars. Mikako leaves Noboru Terao, her closest friend on earth, to engage in the war against aliens. Despite their distance, they continue to communicate through e-mails, Mikako using the messaging system in her mecha and Noboru

receiving the e-mails through his mobile phone. The messages get through after a few months. However, as Mikako gets much farther away from earth due to constant space travelling, the gap between the messages turns from months to years. Now twenty-three years old, Noboru strengthens his resolve and believes that he will be with the fifteen-year-old Mikako.

The second film *The Garden of Words* (Kotonoha no Niwa) is a 2013 animated drama film written and directed by Makoto Shinkai under the animation studio CoMix Wave Inc.

Takao Akizuki is a fifteen-year-old budding shoemaker who skipped class on one rainy morning to work on his shoe designs. At the Shinjuku Gyoen, he meets Yukari Yukino, a woman who loves eating chocolate and drinking beer. They do not exchange personal information with each other, but as they continue to meet in rainy mornings, they slowly learn each other's quirks. Takao skips his morning class and Yukari avoids her work, but neither of them complains about this setup. Eventually, Takao finds out that Yukino is a literature teacher in his school. The friendship does not end there, but Takao finds himself falling for Yukino. However, only when they are away from the garden during rainy mornings would they realize that growth is not being with each other but by being away.



This film screening has shown some values that the Japanese society holds such as patience, duty, and loyalty. These two films also depicted Makoto Shinkai's fixation on transcendence of time and distance, and his motivations as a storyteller. One thing is common between; it is neither too far nor too late to realize one's ambitions, hopes, and feelings.



Fate Grand Order

フェイト/グランドオーダー

◆ Grand Paradox ◆

In the midst of the impending apocalypse, a single soul illuminates from within the darkness and steps forth into the fray to repel the chaos along with his trusted allies. Various heroes came forth to answer his summons and united under one goal. Thus, a new story about heroes and villains alike which transcends both time and space is about to unfold, the story of Fate/Grand Order.

Set in the year 2015, humanity walks a thin thread toward the path of extinction. **Chaldea Security Organization** whose main aim is the survival of the human race has confirmed humanity's demise. They had ensured that humanity's existence was supposedly set in stone for the next century, yet they recently observed that the future they saw no longer exist and that mankind will disappear from the face of the earth by 2016. They had pinpointed that the cause is due to a certain event that happened in Fuyuki City, Japan back in 2004. To counter this threat and eliminate the anomalies, Chaldea gathered talented mages and issued them with the mission: **Grand Order**. The plan entails the use of time travel where they would send the candidates as the agents who would eliminate the singularities causing mankind's extinction. When all seems to be going as planned; evil strikes at the most crucial moment almost crushing the only sliver of hope humanity has left. At that moment, an individual unexpectedly emerges along with his newfound allies who now hold the fate of humanity's survival within their hands.

Fate/Grand Order: First Order is an anime film adaptation of the popular mobile game **Fate/Grand Order** or **FGO** as most players call it. The film is directed by **Hitoshi Namba** and produced by studio **Lay-duce** which aired on December 31, 2016 in commemoration of reaching the 7 millionth download mark of the mobile game.

Potential viewers maybe unfamiliar with the game or the franchise so heres a quick background summary of its origins: Fate/Grand Order is developed by **Delight Works** and the original work came from **TYPE-MOON**, the circle that introduced other epic titles such as *Kara no Kyoukai: The Garden of Sinners* and the *Fate Series*. Most stories are birthed by **Kinoko Nasu** hence the Nasuverse, and his duo, the original character designer **Takeuchi Takashi**. The films staff is also composed of an epic lineup that made their names known in the industry.



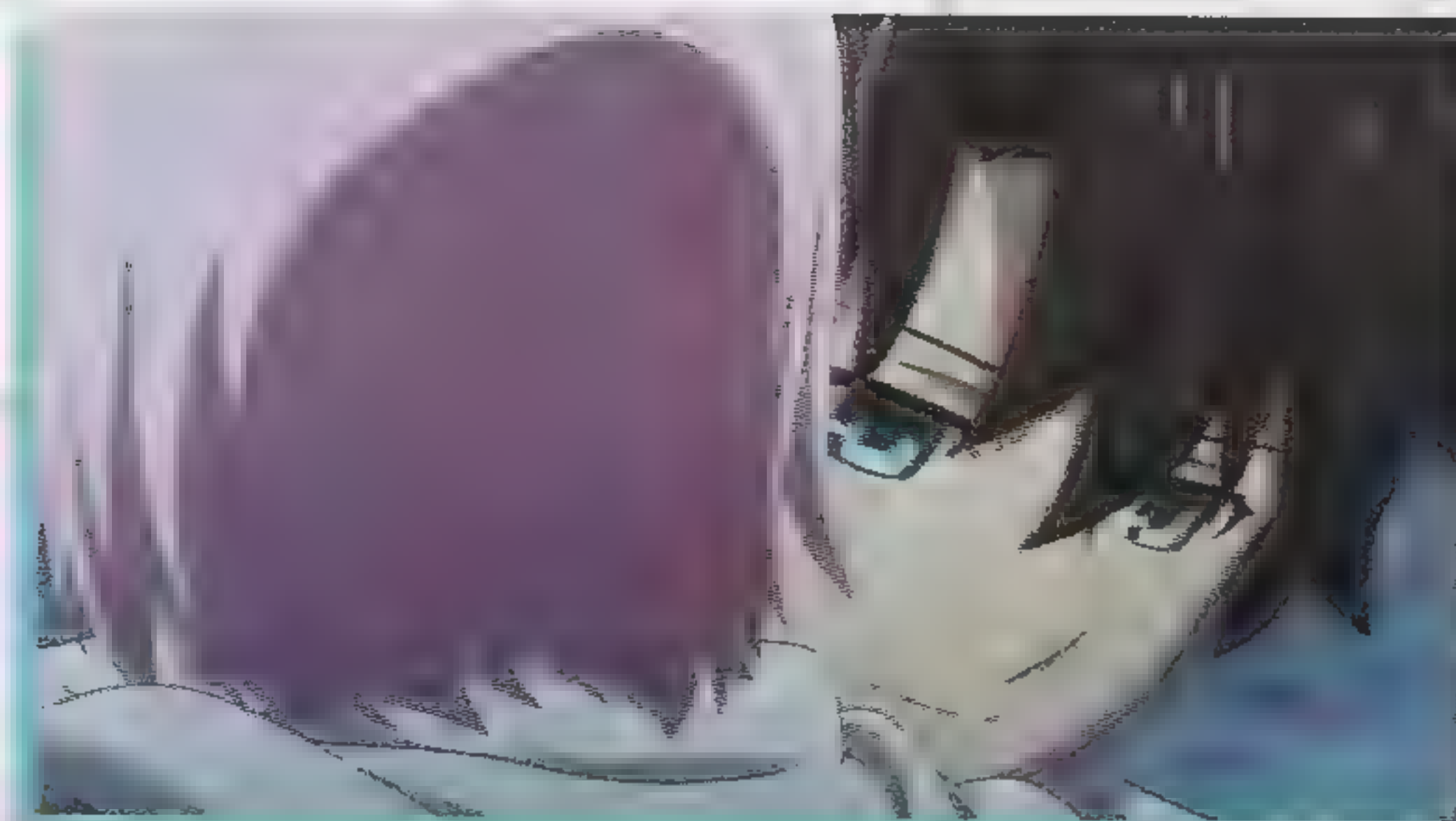
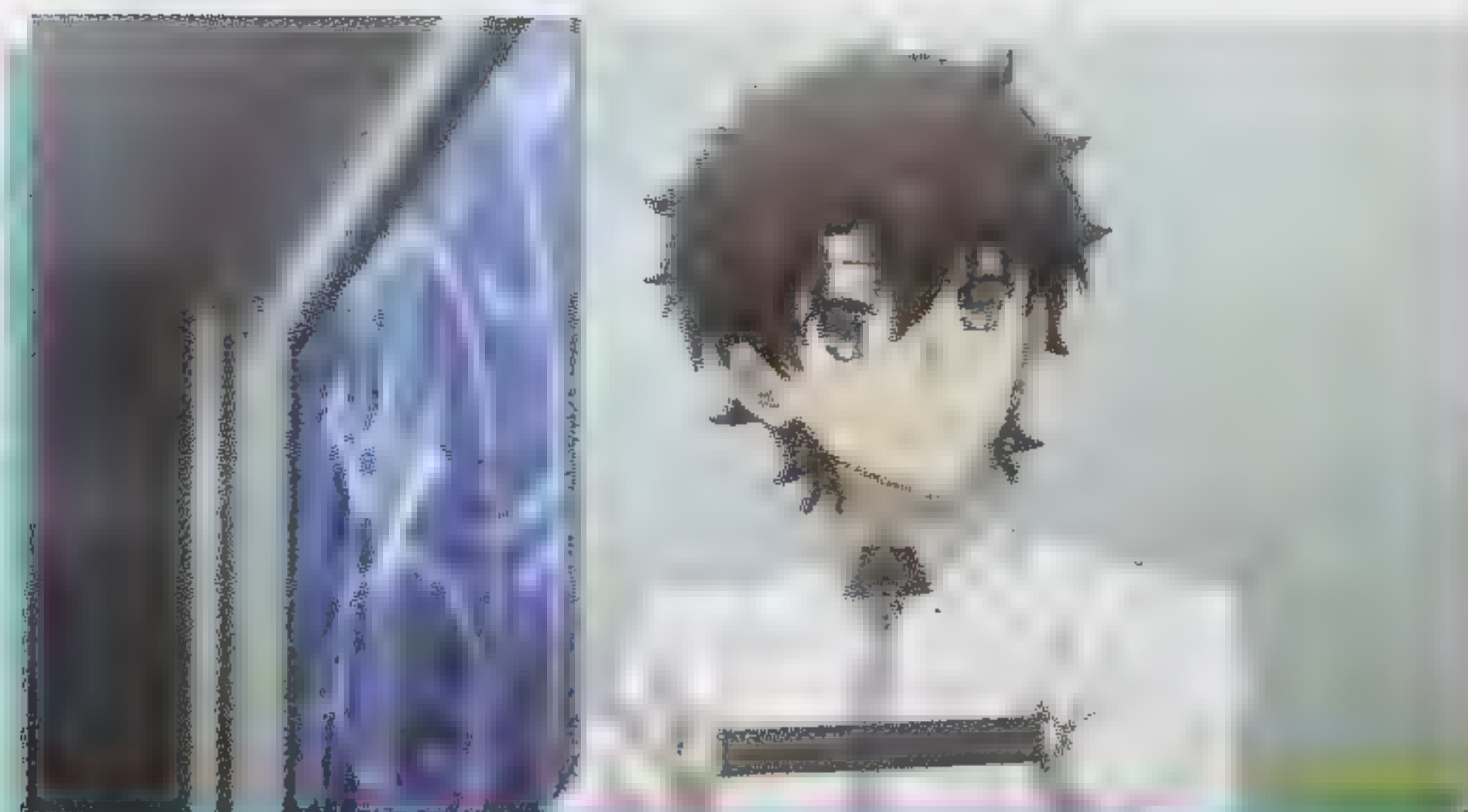
◆ Characters ◆

Ritsuka Fujimaru

(CV: Nobunaga Shimazaki)

Ritsuka is one of the master candidates chosen to partake in the mission to save the future. He was found unconscious by Mashu and Fou in one of Chaldea's hallways and was provided some info about Chaldea's goals by the two.

He was immediately attacked by an unknown enemy as soon as he woke up but at that moment, he was protected by Mashu who was donning a strange outfit and equipped with a huge shield. With the words "*Master, your orders!?*" coming from Mashu, their epic adventures that transcends time and space has now begun.



Mashu Kyrielight

(CV: Rie Takahashi)

Mashu is a young girl in Ritsuka's age and is the first person he encountered within Chaldea along with Fou. Despite having worked within Chaldea for two years, she addresses Ritsuka as senpai claiming that everyone is a senpai to her. Mashu took Ritsuka on a tour of Chaldea and gave him a brief explanation about Chaldea's background and escorted him to various places. Mashu seems very timid and reserved but she sensed a special bond with Ritsuka and considers him as a very human-like person.

Mashu became a demi-servant with the class of Shielder and was also transported to Fuyuki along with Ritsuka.



Fou

(CV: Ayako Kawasumi)

Fou is a strange white creature that seems to always be accompanying Mashu. He was given the name Fou since it was also the same sound that he makes.

Despite being small and meek, Fou is one of their important companions and valuable ally throughout their adventures who will serve a greater role later on.

Romani Archaman

(CV: Kenichi Suzumura)

Romani or most commonly addressed as Dr. Roman is the head of Chaldea's medical division. He likes slacking off and was encountered by Ritsuka hanging out inside his designated room. They had a talk about the organization's structure and such while drinking some coffee before the incident occurred. Dr. Roman tried to salvage the facility and saved as many lives as he could and acted as Ritsuka and Mashu's support after being transferred to a different timeline. He would later take on the main supporting role whenever the duo is sent out on a mission.





Olga Marie Animusphere

(CV: Yonezawa Madoka)

Olga is the leader and current director of Chaldea who monitors the future of mankind. She hails from the prestigious Animusphere family of mages and is reputed as one of the ten Lords of the Clock Tower. She was initially a master candidate but she was discovered to have no aptitude into being one which caused a great scandal among mages.

Lev Lainur Flauros

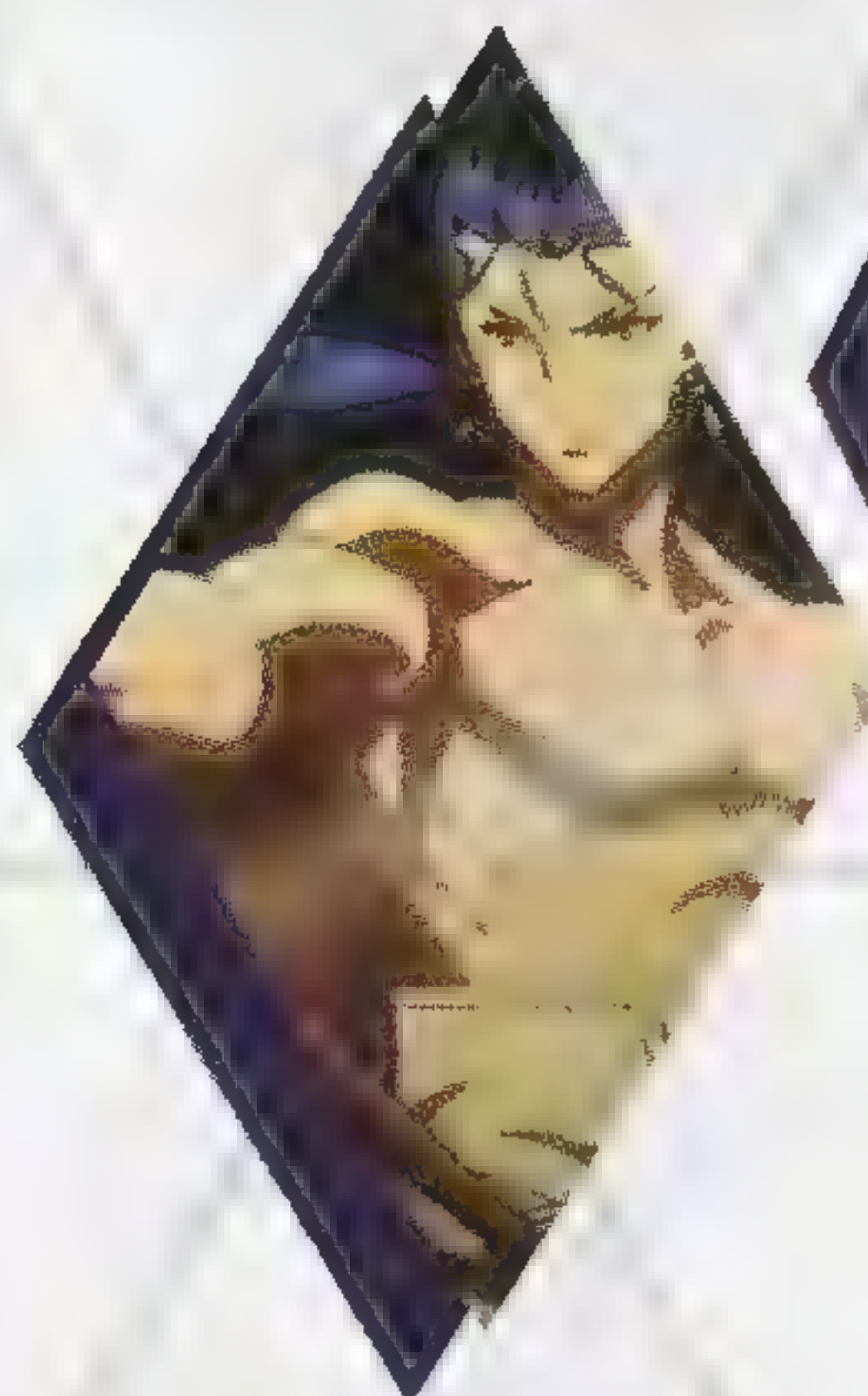
(CV: Tomokazu Sugita)

Lev is also one of the first individuals that Ritsuka met within Chaldea. Lev introduced himself as an simple engineer but was later corrected by Dr. Roman as the person who invented SHIVA, the near-future observation lens which acts as a telescope that observes Chaldeas and reveals the future.



Cu Chulainn

Cu Chulainn is one of the servants summoned in the Fuyuki singularity. He was summoned this time as a Caster class servant and rescued our heroes during a critical moment. Cu decided to accompany Ritsuka and made a temporary contract as one of his servants.



Saber Alter

Saber appeared in her corrupted form and seems to be at the center of the singularity which would cause mankind's demise. Due to the combined effort of Mash's defense, Cu's attack and Ritsuka's support, they were able to overcome her fearsome strength and revealed a shocking revelation before disappearing.



Fate/Grand Order: First Order is a great film adaptation which serves as an introduction of an epic story. Though it only adapted the prologue chapter of the game, the film is packed with both action and drama that would make you beg for more. The film also serves as a summary of what happened during the prologue especially for players outside Japan who can't read moon runes. There is a glimpse of hope for the next arc to be animated since a preview of the following chapters was featured near the end of the film, and hopefully we could enjoy watching them in the future.

Humans rising up against history for the sake of survival, witness the bravery of heroes that hail from the past, present and distant future as they fight against fate.



CHARACTER BIO

by Reikisha

BIG BANG SYNDROME

One of the basics of playing an RPG is to always put a magic-user into your party for a balanced lineup. Their role is to cast powerful Area of Effect magic from the back row, nuking any adversary the party encounters on their journey. Unfortunately for our featured magic-user, no sane party leader is willing to put up with her odd quirk. She may be a powerful arch wizard, but her unhealthy obsession with explosion magic makes her more like a liability than an asset.

Megumin

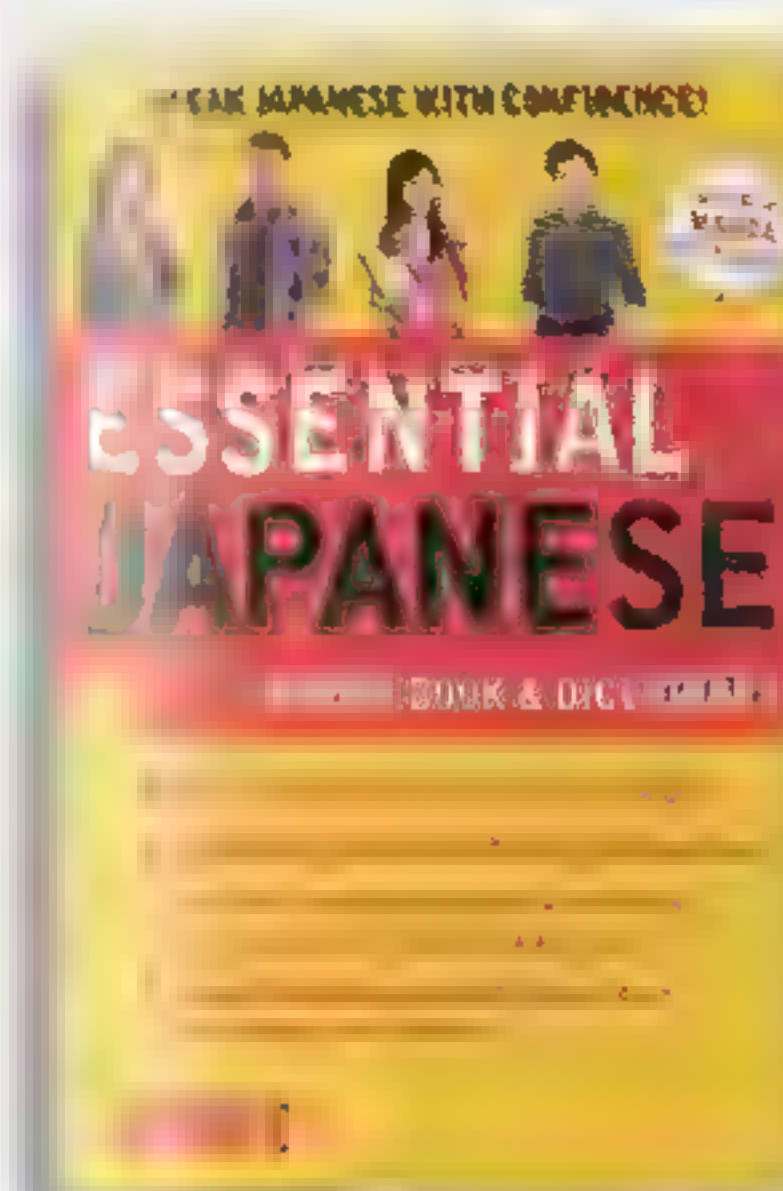
Race: Crimson Demon
Age: 14 (around 17 in the web novel).
Class: Arch Wizard
Skills: Explosion Magic
Character Voice:
Rie Takahashi (Anime),
Maaya Uchida (Drama CD)

Megumin is a member of the Crimson Demons; a clan of arch wizards capable of fending off the Demon King's army. Her clan is also known for having black hair, red eyes, and having grandeur delusions as their key features. Megumin spent all her skill points on explosion magic to improve the damage output and reduce her casting time. However, casting one explosion magic incapacitates Megumin for the rest of the day due to its high mana requirement. Her obsession with explosion magic is the main reason why most adventurers in Axel refuse to accept Megumin to their party before meeting Kazuma and Aqua.

Megumin is usually calm and cheerful, but she can be aggressive when she feels challenged or when others mock or try to hurt her allies. She also hates it when people treats her like a child or calls her a loli. On the bright side, Megumin has the most common sense compared to Aqua and Darkness despite being the youngest member of the party.

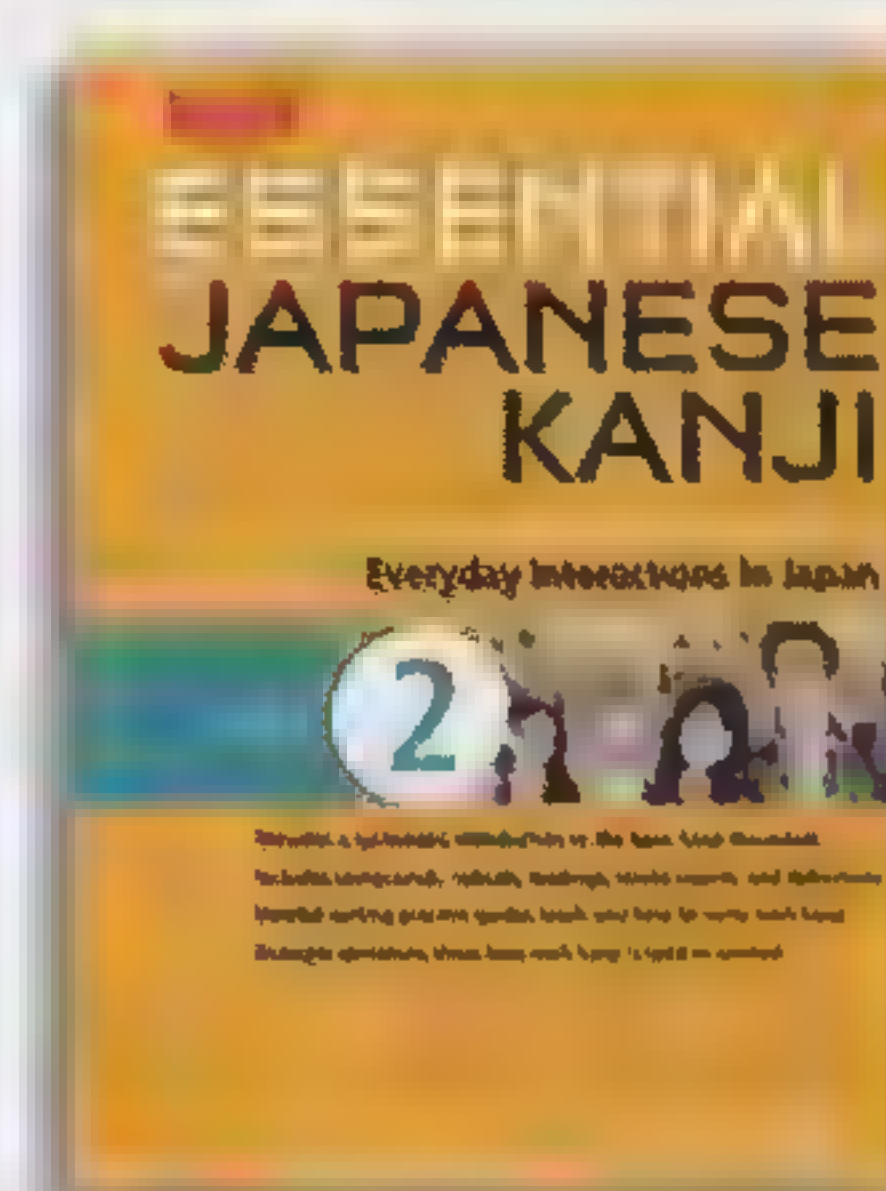
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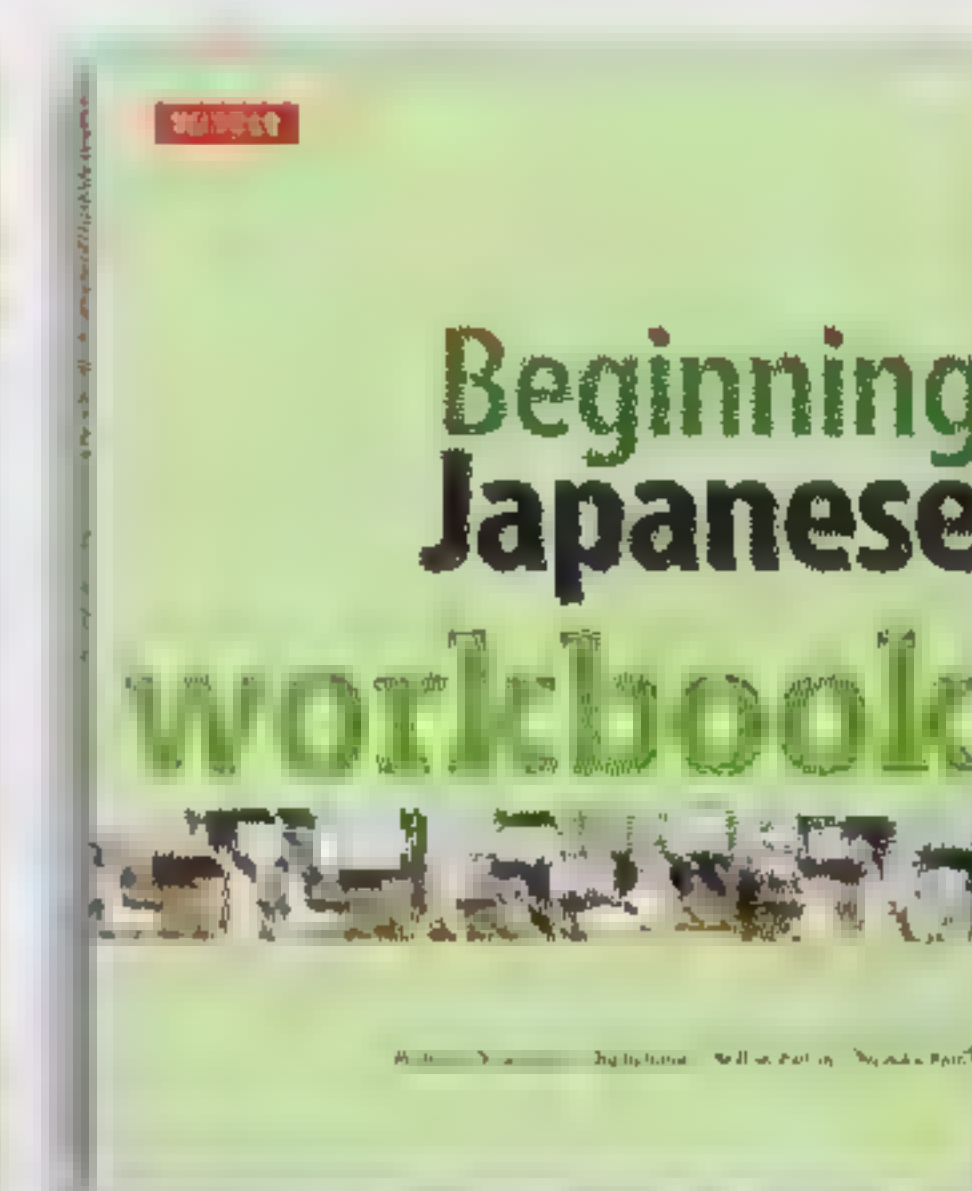
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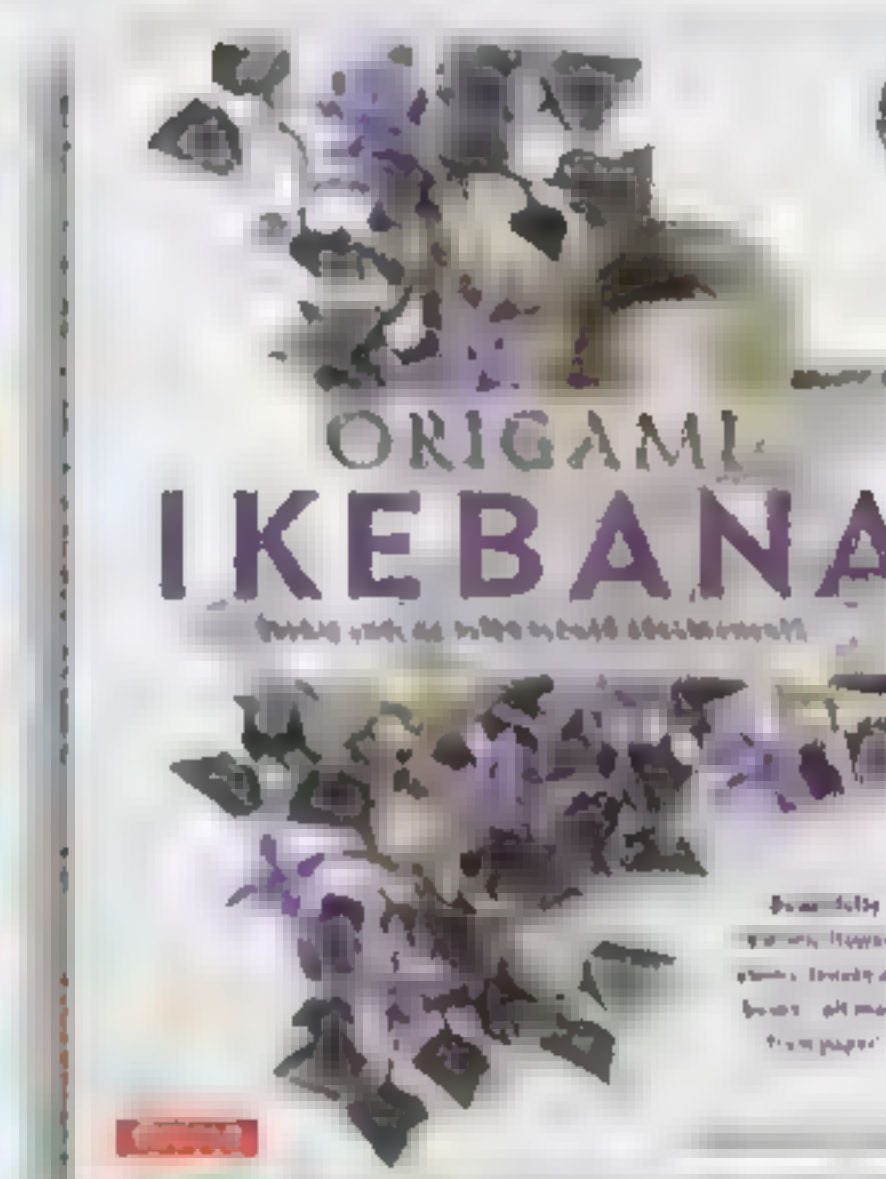
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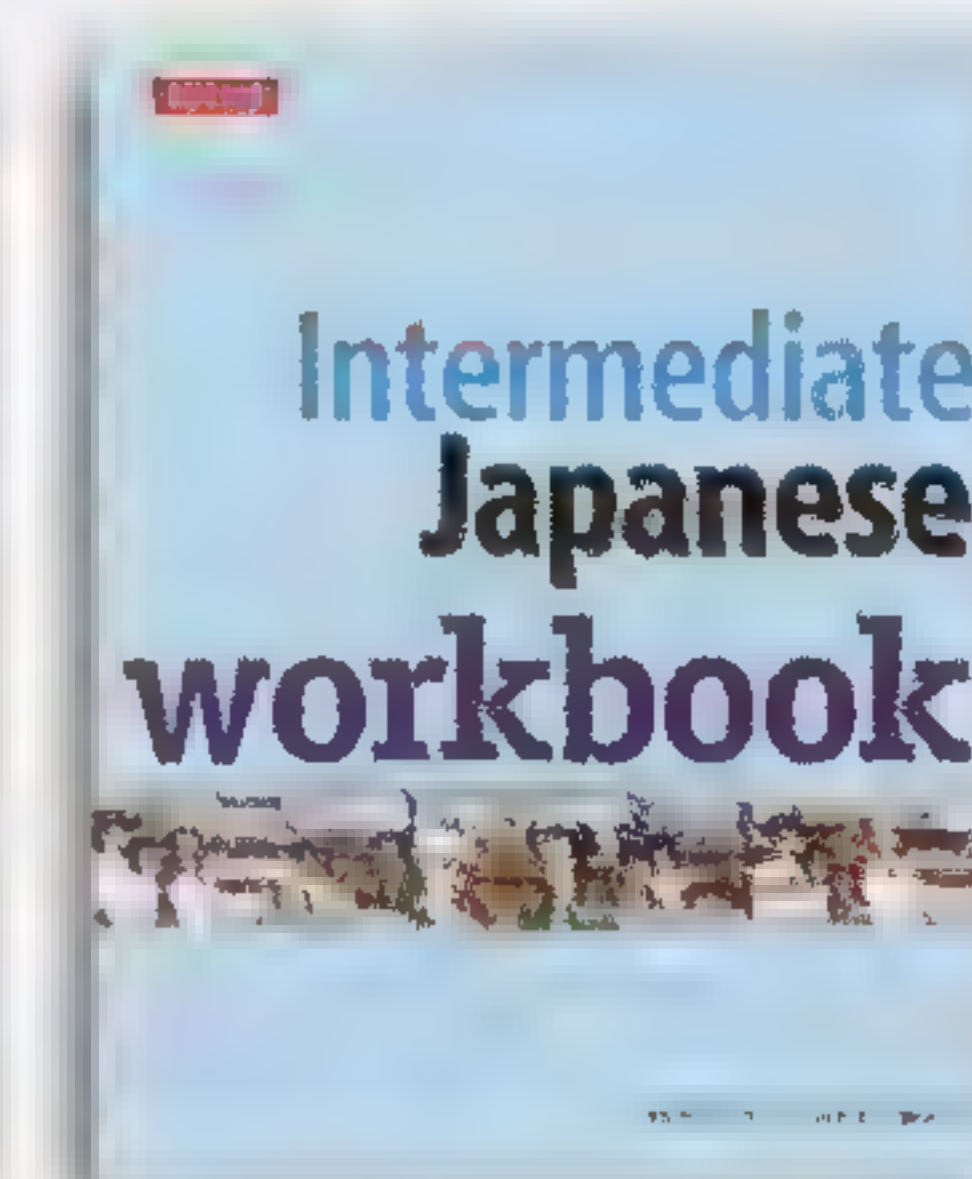
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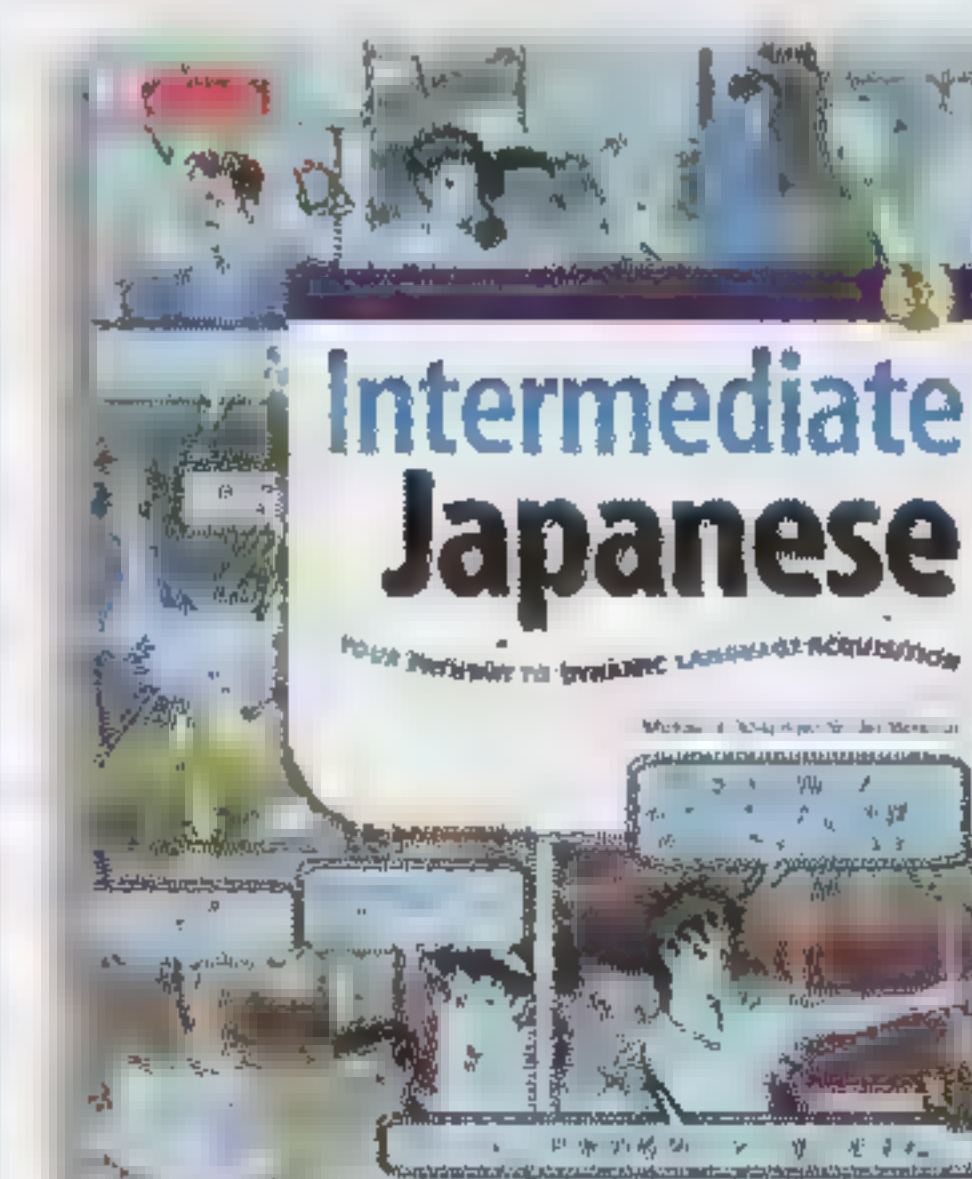
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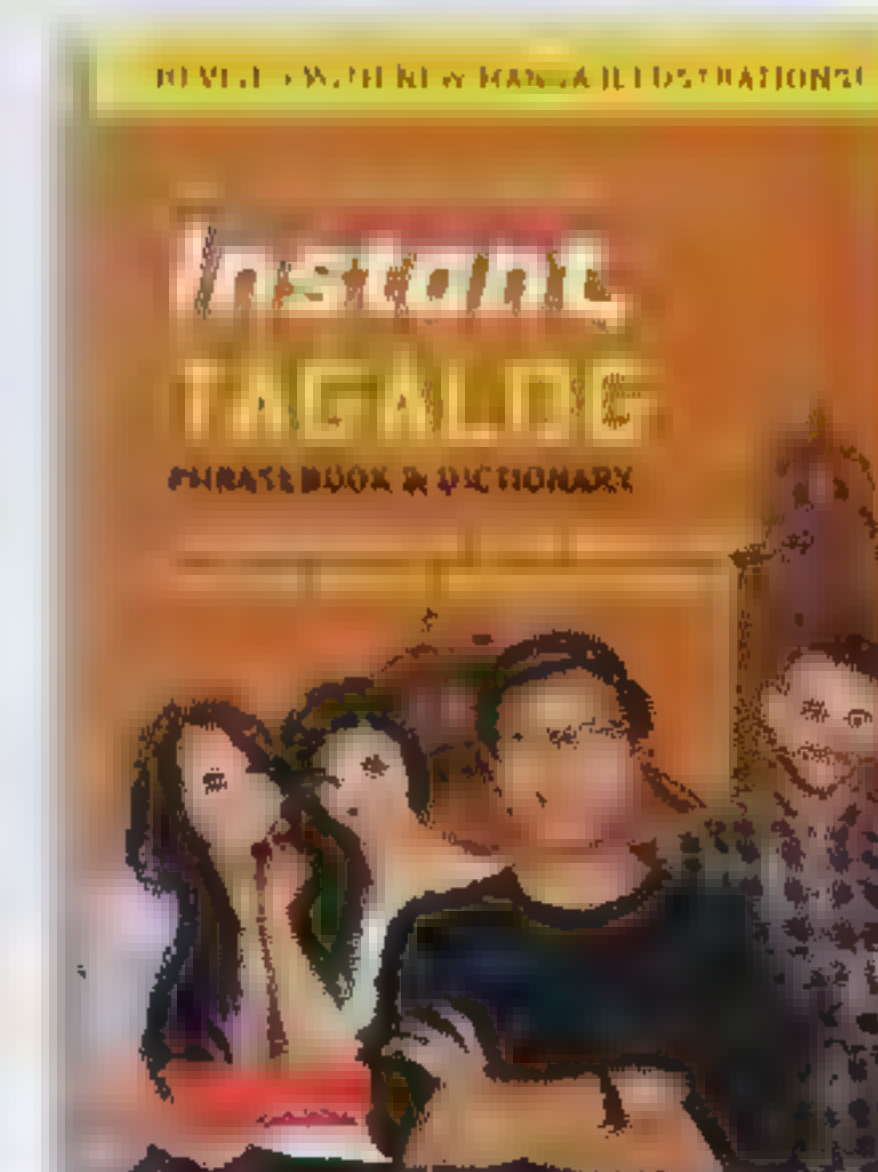
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MANGA

by lizac 3.0

The Greatest Spirit Master **DOULOU DALU**



Do you believe in reincarnation? Most of us would like to believe we were born Japanese in our past lives. Some even claim that they brought some memories with them from their past lives to their present. It is the same with **Tang San** who was once an outsider Tang apprentice in the Tang Sect, the most famous faction of martial arts. Tang San was bound to be executed because of learning the **Bible of Empyrean**, a book that contains secret teachings. Thus, he gets ahead of the execution committee and throws himself from the **Hell's Peak**. In the continent of **Douro** or **Combat Continent**, he is reborn as Tang San once again, son of the great blacksmith **Tang Wu**. Now six years old, Tang San remembers all his memories from the past, but that will not stop him from achieving his goal to be the strongest spirit master and the only one that his village will be proud of.

Doulou Dalu is a completed action and fantasy manhua written by **Tan Jia San Shao** and illustrated by **Mu Feng Chun** in 2011. It was published by **Chiangjiang Press** and serialized in the magazine **u17**. It is originally a novel of the same name. **Doulou Dalu** also has a sequel and a side story.

Just like any action manhua and shounen manga, **Doulou Dalu** has an interesting protagonist. **Tang San's** adventures include discovering the

kind of spirit he can yield, finding out his essence spirit level, and going to the academy to hone his skills. Despite his young age, **Tang San's** motivation is unyielding. It will make you cheer him on while he is doing battles in and out of the academy. Reading **Doulou Dalu** is also like watching a game walkthrough, thanks to **Tan San's** master for explaining each step of the training. All aspiring spirit masters have to accomplish quests to increase their levels and these were all explained properly in the manhua.

Reviews on **Doulou Dalu** are mixed and divided into two, those who enjoyed reading the manhua as a standalone material and others who enjoyed the novel where it was based from, thus criticizing its manhua adaptation. If readers have something to compare it with, it would be harder for this manhua to completely stem away from the novel. However, for those who have not read the novel, they will find it adventure-filled. The art is great enough to compel the readers. The story, although not completely unique, is still interesting especially for shounen lovers.

An action manhua with funny scenes, amazing art, and brave characters, **Doulou Dalu** is a good read that you should be giving a chance!

These days, it's much more difficult to be yourself without being judged by people. But if you happen to lose yourself physically, the worst has really come.

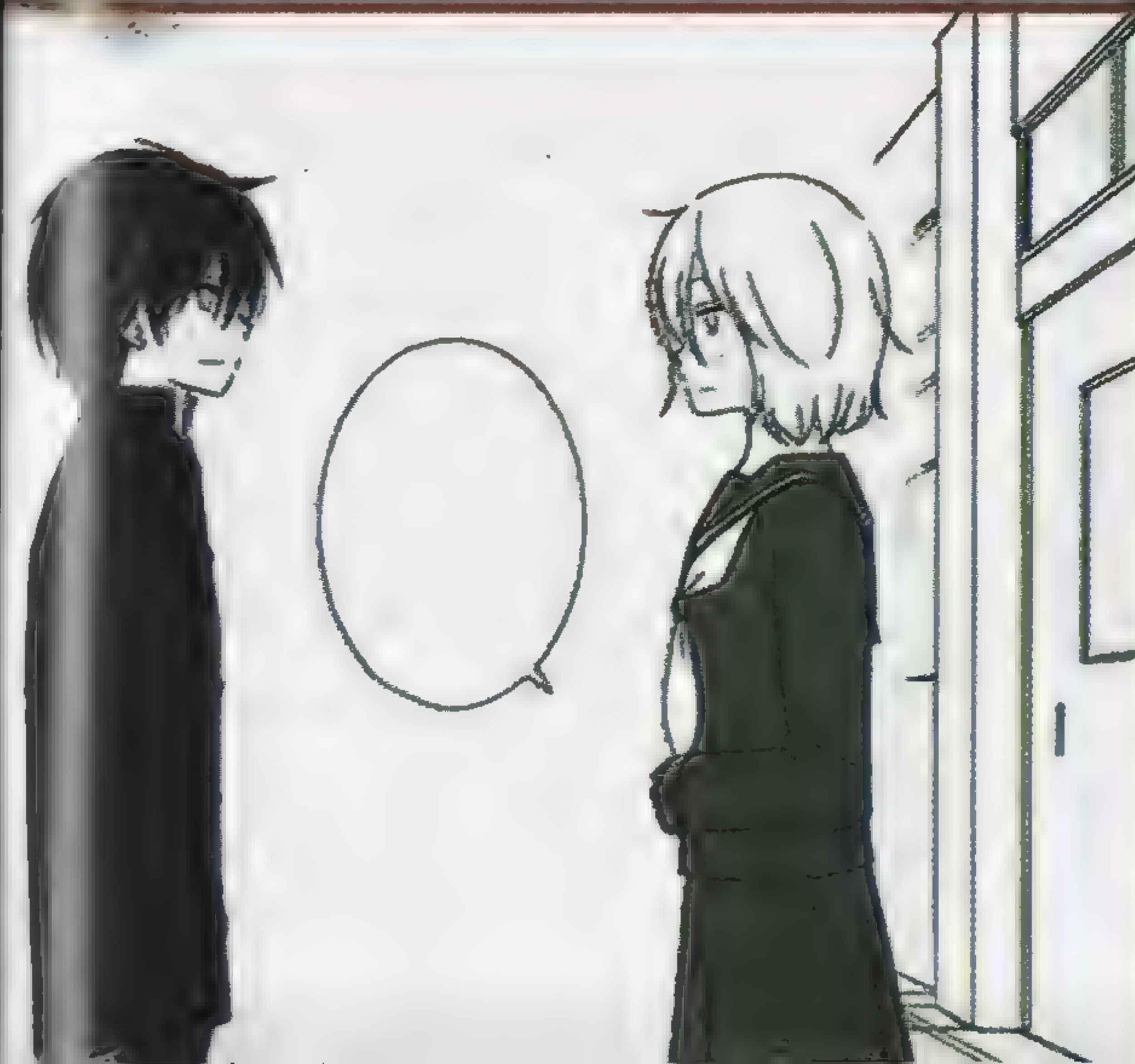
One sunny day, elementary school students **Yuuta Kimura** and **Yui Ootsuka** had a minor accident. Yuuta had fallen from a tree and landed on Yui. At first, it was no big deal. But it was in that instance that they mysteriously swapped bodies. Since then, their misfortunes have gone a bit too far and too long that it's almost impossible to go back. Three years later, Yuuta is still in Yui's body, and Yui in Yuuta's. Together, they cope with all the drastic changes: switching families, changing personalities and interests, and the fact that they have entered a new phase in their lives as middle school students.

Shishunki Bitter Change is an on-going drama shoujo manga written and illustrated by **Masayoshi** in 2012. It is published by **Holp Shuppan** and serialized in the magazine **Comic Polaris**. It has six volumes so far, the seventh volume coming out on spring 2017. This manga showed that the implications of living in the body of the opposite sex are difficult to deal with. Although this manga has its funny moments, it cannot be denied that it is a serious story that should be taken seriously. The art is not that intricate compared

to other shoujo manga. It does fit the nature of the characters that are slowly becoming jaded about their situation. It would not be right to draw them as extremely pretty or handsome given their multitude of problems.

Body swapping is a common theme in manga, but it is usually depicted hilariously. Mostly, the characters touch their new bodies to see how they function. However, **Shishunki Bitter Change** is nothing like that. As the name implies, it is indeed, a bitter change for **Yuuta** and **Yui**. Neither of them wants to be in a different body just for the kicks. It is a tragic manga wherein both main characters are struggling to fit into their new bodies. Both had been desperate to look for a solution to this long-term problem, although they gave up trying so hard a long time ago. Yet every time a situation emphasizes that they are truly in another person's body, their poise gets ruined. The characters are very relatable in that their swapped bodies are preventing them to live their own lives, like someone is dictating them what to do.

When will **Bitter Change** become a **Better Change**? **Yuuta** and **Yui** still do not know, but they try to do their best. Read on to this manga and find out what really happens when two people swap bodies.



Me in You and
You in Me

**SHISHUNKI
BITTER
CHANGE**

I like you,
Senpai
NAMAIKIZAKARI.



I am going
to change
the future
**TSUYOKUTE
NEW SAGA**

If you are the eldest child, you are expected to be the most mature among your siblings. You are supposed to be the one who will take care of them, and you should also serve as the role model for them. It is indeed challenging, but **Machida Yuki** was able to get used to it as early as her grade school days.

Hence, right now as the manager of the basketball club in her highschool, she is very capable and reliable, for she takes care of everything perfectly, even though she was not the cheerful and bubbly girl manager the players dreamed to have in their club. Still, they respect her adding the fact that she is their senpai. Well, not totally for **Naruse Shou**. Despite being only a first year, he kept on teasing Yuki until one day he just suddenly confesses to her. Overly surprised, Yuki thinks that he is just messing around with her as he pleases, so she doesn't take it seriously. As much as possible she wants to avoid any interaction with him, but how long will she last when she sees Naruse in their club everyday?

Written by **Miyuki Mitsubachi**, *Namaikizakari* is an ongoing shoujo manga series published by **Hakusensha** in their **Hanato Yume** magazine. It started its release in 2013 and has now a total of eight volumes. Miyuki-sensei is known for her school romance stories as she published a total of 13 manga (mostly oneshots) including a doujinshi of *Skip Beat* since the year 2007.

The usual shoujo manga trend that we know is "Oh he likes me! What should I do I think I also like him", but this manga is more like "Oh he likes me? What the heck, how could that be possible? No! Stay away". Yes, that pretty much describes the whole thing, and this fact made the plot so refreshing for shoujo readers. This is best recommended for those who want to relit their shoujo fan life fire inside them.

Yuki refuses, but will she be able to resist any longer, especially when Naruse cares and reads her most accurately than anyone? Find out how this overly cute love story will turn out!

In the year 2826, the demons launched a surprise attack against humans as the new demon lord was enthroned. Caught off guard and unprepared, almost all of humanity was wiped out in a blink of an eye. Even the **Galgan Empire**, which is known for its superior military force and is probably the best among all kingdoms, also fell.

In the year 2827, a group of elite fighters who survived in the ambush were assembled as the **Magical Swordsman Kail's Suicide Squad**. Their battle was not in vain for Kail was able to defeat the **Demon Lord**. However, it was still devastating for him, who is also almost dying, for he lost his family, friends, and allies. While just waiting for his life to ebb away, Kail notices a strange relic in the Demon Lord's chamber. He remembered the Demon Lord being protective of this gem, and when he grabbed it, a blinding light momentarily showed up. The next thing he knew, he was back to his room, everything was normal, and soon he found out that he was back in the past four years away from the Demon invasion.

Tsuyokute New Saga is based on a light novel series by **Abe Masayuki**. Though he also authored the manga, **Miura Jun** helped him as the official illustrator of the series. Started in 2014,

Tsuyokute New Saga is being published by **Alpha Polis** with currently four volumes and still ongoing. Apparently, this is the first published series of **Abe-sensei**, but even so, he officially made a high start in his works.

As you read the first few pages of the pilot chapter, you would wonder why the pacing seems to be too fast, but as you read on, you'd know that it's because there is more to this manga than meets the eye. I believe this series is pleasantly unconventional in two ways. First, I love how the main plot was introduced: it is not very straightforward and will leave you initially with a lot of questions in your mind. Second is that the main character is so level-headed you'd feel you could rely on him. After figuring out he went back to the past, he actually didn't make a ruckus on how in three years everyone will die. Instead, he immediately thought of a plan on how he will manage to save everyone without unnecessarily talking about the future. It's so nice to have a shrewd and wise main character once in while, since we are used to having these type of characters in the sidelines.

Will Kail be able to fully prepare for the demon's human invasion? Watch him find his way to becoming a hero before he fights the Demon Lord!

Secret Darkness **BLACK HAZE**



The **Black Magician**. Everyone regards him highly as the talented magician from **Opion**. He is mysterious, and very powerful. Unbeknownst to the crowd though, he is just a 15 year old kid, but despite his age, he is already a first-ranked magician. His name is **Rood Chrishi**, and his awakened form is **Blow**. From being originally blonde, his hair turns black in his awakened form, probably the reason why they could keep his identity safely.

As his latest mission, Rood is asked to attend a famous magician's school called **Helios** to protect the son of a duchess in school and let him enjoy his time at school. The mission sounds easy, but apparently, the son is being called a monster by his schoolmates and is being isolated. Rood then enters the school (hiding the fact that he already is a top class magician), and tries to unveil the roots behind **Lidusis'** issues.

Written by **Yong Yong**, **Black Haze** is an ongoing manhwa (Korean manga or

webtoon) series which started in 2012. It was initially published by **Naver** and **TTale**, but from 103 chapters onwards, **Foxtoon** took over in the publishing.

At first glance, the story plot seems to be shallow and simple. In fact, when you read the first few chapters, you would sometimes feel how ridiculous it is and if it is even worth reading. However, I highly suggest that you stick to it and wait until Rood enters **Helios**. Until then, you would not be able to stop reading. It's adorable how the scenes can go from randomness to complete seriousness in just one page. Moreover, the combination of lead characters is a perfect match of varied personalities. Also, the unique style in drawing panels in a manhwa added to the excitement you would feel while reading it.

What is the history behind **Lidusis** being bullied in **Helios**? Will Rood be able to finish his mission?



Silent Love **HIBI CHOUCHOU**

A beautiful girl who rarely speaks. A strong boy who doesn't know how to talk to girls. Will they make a good match?

Shibazeki Suiren is an astonishingly beautiful girl, but having these looks also drove her to become passive and aloof from people. The overly special treatment others gave her because of her looks made her feel uncomfortable with people except for her only two friends. She decided that entering highschool will become a new start for her, but then the situation is the same, for everyone is still enthralled from her beauty. All students treat her as their **Tanaka no Hana**, a beautiful flower but impossible to reach. Wherever she is, everyone looks at her direction, except for one person. **Taichi Kawasumi** helped Suiren once from a persistent senpai who likes her. Despite that, Kawasumi never made eye contact with Suiren even once. That was the start of her noticing this guy, the only one who doesn't make a fuss over her. Everyday she looks at him, watches him, until one day she

just realizes that she likes him.

Another of the completed series of **Shueisha**, **Hibi Chouchou** is a manga written by **Morishita Suu** which was run from February 2012 to August 2015. In 2014, Hibi Chouchou was nominated in the **38th Kodansha Manga Award** for the shoujo manga category.

The pairing of the two main characters is definitely unique. It will make you think how would a relationship workout for some extremely few-worded pair. Their love story is certainly quiet, but surprisingly very romantic. The progress is slow and will make you want more. This series is highly recommended for those who want fluffy and light romance for the time being.

Voices are probably not needed. Few glances, gestures and occasional smiles will do, and love will surely bloom as beautiful as any flower between those two.



MOVIE REEL

by Ann

TRICKY CHILD'S PLAY

Sword Art Online The Movie - Ordinal Scale

Some things are just better than others — weapon, strength, and even a game. However, not everything can be rated based on efficiency, aesthetics, and popularity. That's exactly what ordinal scale means, but in the animated movie of *Sword Art Online* (SAO), *Ordinal Scale* is still shrouded with mystery with what else it has to offer.



Kirito and Asuna, along with new and old comrades, play with the new MMORPG, *Ordinal Scale*, within the Augmented Reality through the machine called Augma. Augma, a next-generation wearable device is created to match programmer Akihiko Kayaba's NerveGear as well as Amusphere. What would first seem like child's play might just turn into a gamble.

Sword Art Online The Movie - Ordinal Scale is based on the original light novel that was published in 2009. Before its theatrical premiere on February 18, the story has already been adapted into two seasons of animated series, games, comics, and merchandise. Produced by SAO MOVIE Project, the film is directed by Tomohiko Ito, who also directed the anime series. Also from the series, Shingo Adachi designed the characters (with original character design from abec) and Yuki Kajiura took care of the music. LiSA performed the film's ending theme "Catch the Moment".



Leading the cast is Yoshitsugu Matsuoka as Kirito/Kazuto Kirigaya, Haruka Tomatsu as Asuna/Asuna Yuuki, Ayahi Takagaki as Lisbeth/Rika Shinozaki, Hiroaki Hirata as Klein/Ryotaro Tsuboi, Kahae Ito as Yui, Ayana Taketatsu as Leafa/Suguha Kirigaya, Hiroki Yasumoto as Agil/Andrew Gilbert Mills, Sayaka Kanda as Yuna, Rina Hidaka as Silica/Keiko Ayano, Miyuki Sawashiro as Sinon/Shino Asada.

While it's promised to be an original story with the blurred boundaries of the augmented reality and the characters' real world, *Ordinal Scale* gives fans a trip on memory lane as it is filled with some iconic costumes as well as power combos seen in the anime series. The movie also draws some revelations from the SAO game that the players were previously involved in. The animation, as expected, was perfect to capture the fluid fight scenes in the movie.



Many would most probably be like Kirito, "It's just a game.... Or so I thought —" In an effort to get a higher ranking than others, there is much at stake. Find out what they'll be up against in *Sword Art Online The Movie - Ordinal Scale*!



小林さんちのメイドラゴン

Miss Kobayashi's Dragon Maid



Drunkards and Dragons by lizac 3.0

Perhaps the worst hangover is when you think you see things that are not supposed to exist. For example, dragons! That's a scary thought, but in Kobayashi's case, it is not merely a delusion but a reality.

Kobayashi is an office lady who loves to drink after work. The next morning, as she opens her apartment door to leave for office, she sees a face of a dragon. She's had a terrible hangover to boot, so she blames this wild vision on her heavy drinking. However, the green-scaled dragon roars and breathes magic into her face which all seemed too real. All of a sudden, it transforms into a pretty young lady introducing herself as Tohru. She claims that she was invited by Kobayashi to her place while the office lady was hanging out and drinking in the mountains. As payback to Kobayashi for saving her life, Tohru is willing to be Kobayashi's maid. The Dragon Maid needs to learn a lot of things, such as doing household chores without the use of magic. She has a long way to go, but her love for Kobayashi can give her unyielding motivation.

Miss Kobayashi's Dragon Maid (Kobayashi-san Chi no Meidoragon) is originally a comedy manga written by Coolkyoushinja in 2013 and published by Futabasha. Kyoto Animation studio

produced an anime adaptation which aired last January 2017. As expected from Kyoto Animation, the scenes were animated smoothly and the character designs are charming. Miss Kobayashi's Dragon Maid has subtle hints of yuri or girls love, although the theme is mainly focused on forging friendships and learning how to cope with a difficult past.

The characters are lovable in their own ways. Miss Kobayashi is a relatable adult, no doubt about that. She appears to be a woman who is done with everything; her limited facial expressions say so. Tohru's quick jealousy makes her go into dragon mode, which is completely different from her normal human form. Kanna, one of Tohru's dragon friends, looks like a fragile schoolchild, but she participates in diehard battles. This shows the characters' unpredictability, so the audience will want to discover more about the character's attitudes as they go along with the series. Also, one word: cute. Even the dragons themselves are cute. It's quite rare to hear a dragon with a woman's voice, so this is one refreshing element in the story.

Miss Kobayashi's Dragon Maid is a cute anime that gives you a light feeling after every episode. If you are feeling blue, just watch this anime and you will definitely find yourself enjoying it!





いとたび靈たらば一生影なり
 靈氣共に生き命魂同じくす

スピリットパクト

SPIRITPACT by James

It's anime, not Chinese cartoons! Or maybe in this case, it is Chinese cartoons. But let's not get caught up on who made what, because what matters in the end is the quality, and *Ling Qi*, a supernatural action Chinese-produced anime, doesn't have any shortage of that. For those who don't speak the language, that is roughly translated in English as *SpiritPact*. And it's as good as a Japanese-made anime of the same genre.

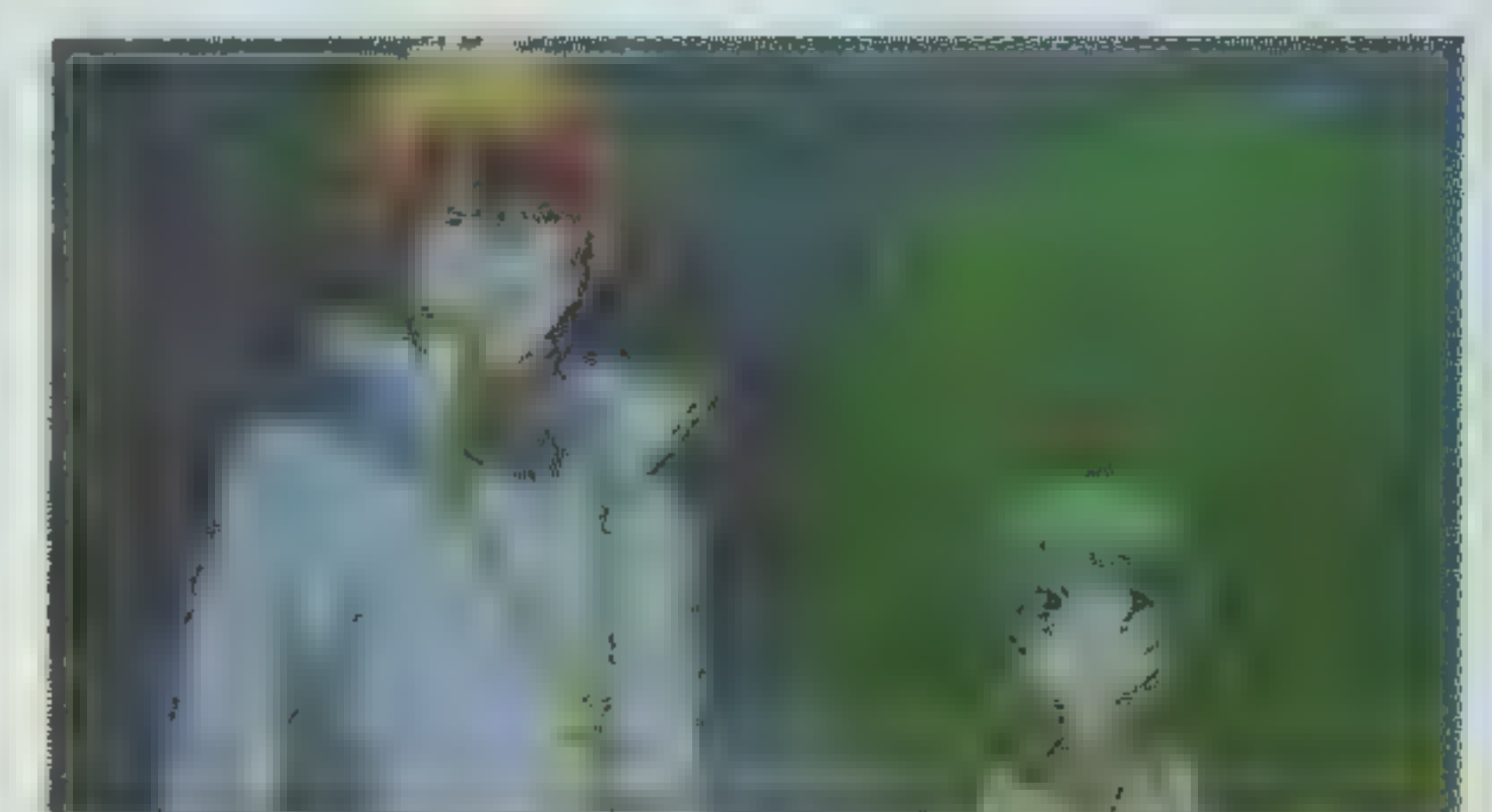
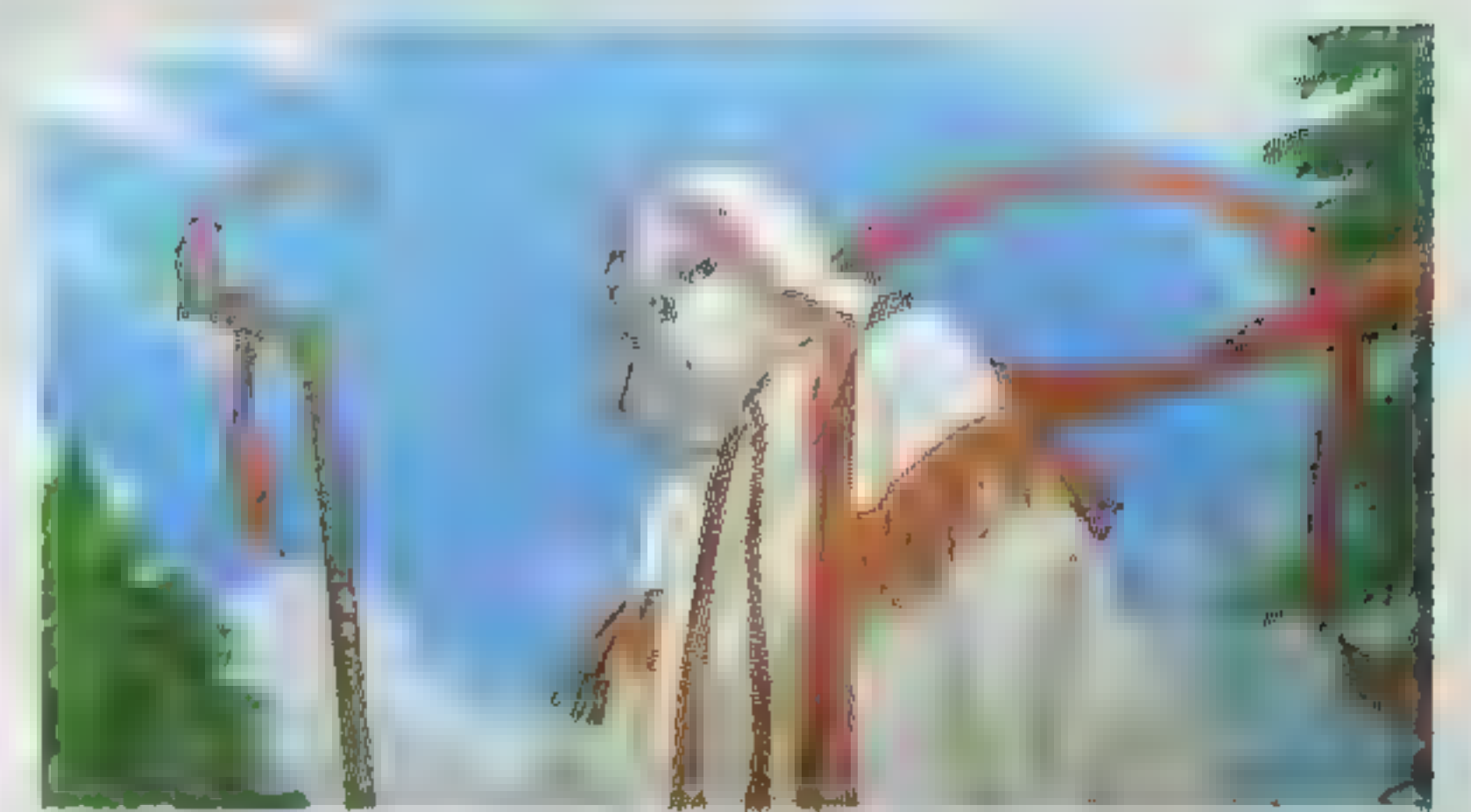
The story revolves around You Keika, a downtrodden man because he neither has much money nor connections. All he has is his family's legacy as exorcists, and a computer repair shop. But because he's not well-off, he scavenges for parts in the local dumpsite. One fateful night, while he was doing his usual trip, he encounters Ki Tanmoku, a Youmeishi, one who fights evil sprits.

Shortly after the unexpected first meeting, You becomes a victim of a road accident and wakes up with Ki a decade later. Conscious as he may be, he's not alive – but he's not dead either. He's trapped in between, and if he stays that way he'll be an evil spirit himself, which will bring him punishment. For this to not happen, he has to make a spiritual pact with Ki and become his spirit shadow. After a brush with an evil spirit that almost turns him into one of them, You finally agrees. Thus begins the pair's life as evil spirit slayers – and more. Yes, this is a shounen ai anime.

The art is decent, and at times even good, but there's much left to be desired when it comes to its consistency. Same goes with the animation, which can either be smooth enough, or clunky and rough, which can be frustrating during action scenes. And even in its smoothest, it hardly gets as polished as anime from a Japanese anime studio. But you have to give Haoliners Animation League some slack, as they were able to make something that, with a few more polishes, can rival anime studios like A1 and Gainax.

The show also doesn't have the most original plot, as it falls under the typical guy-meets-magical-girl premise, save the fact that it's shounen ai. However, at this point in time, nothing is hardly original, so what sets anime apart nowadays are characters and story execution – something *Spiritpact* nails. The lead pair are complete foils of each other without being excessively showy about it, and the romance subplot doesn't override the main plot, but is definitely there.

Spiritpact is undoubtedly a good anime, albeit far from the usual one. It's not everyone's cup of shounen ai action-supernatural tea, but those who'll find it to their liking will definitely stick around for more.





YOUJO SENKI

by: James

World War I. One of the bloodiest conflicts in human history. Now give that a twist – one that involves magic, religion, alternate reality, and reincarnation – then you'll get Youjo Senki. Enter this freaky theater of battle that is no other than Youjo Senki.

Also known as *The Saga of Tanya the Evil* in English, the series is about second lieutenant **Tanya Degurechaff**, an officer of The Empire, a country in an alternate Earth that, despite its power, is struggling in a multi-front war, as it's surrounded by many enemies. But because of Tanya's unbelievable magical prowess in battle and exemplary leadership, The Empire remains unconquered.

Tanya, however, isn't truly a magical patriot. Truth is, she – or rather, he – is actually a cold and calculating salaryman who's only concerned with making money and making the business run efficiently. His old life, however, ceased to be when an employee he terminated attempted to kill him.

What sets our world and this alternative one apart are the countries' names, and the existence of magic, something our salaryman-turned-little-girl protagonist excels at, to the point that he was able to enlist at the too-tender and technically illegal age of nine. There is, however, a catch to his abilities: he – or rather, she – has to pray to God in order to bring out her magic's true potential. This, of course, vexes Tanya, but what can she do?

Yes, it's a lot to take in. And rightfully so, as this rather complex anime has themes of morality, life, existence, faith, and many others. All of these, packaged in a gritty anime world that has a colorful, unsympathetic, and amoral lead, and supporting characters that are a lot more endearing. Last but definitely not least, for the world-building, it's rather solid, as the alternate world is truly reminiscent of World War I aesthetics, specifically that of Germany's, but distinct enough to be fantastical.

Youjo Senki is without a doubt one of the strangest mixes in anime. Yet at the same time, it's also one of curiosity-grabbing, enthralling, deep, and entertaining. So if you can stomach a no-nonsense, cold, and calculating lead in a brutal, war-torn world, you should definitely follow Tanya The Evil's tale.



亜人 ちんは 語り たい



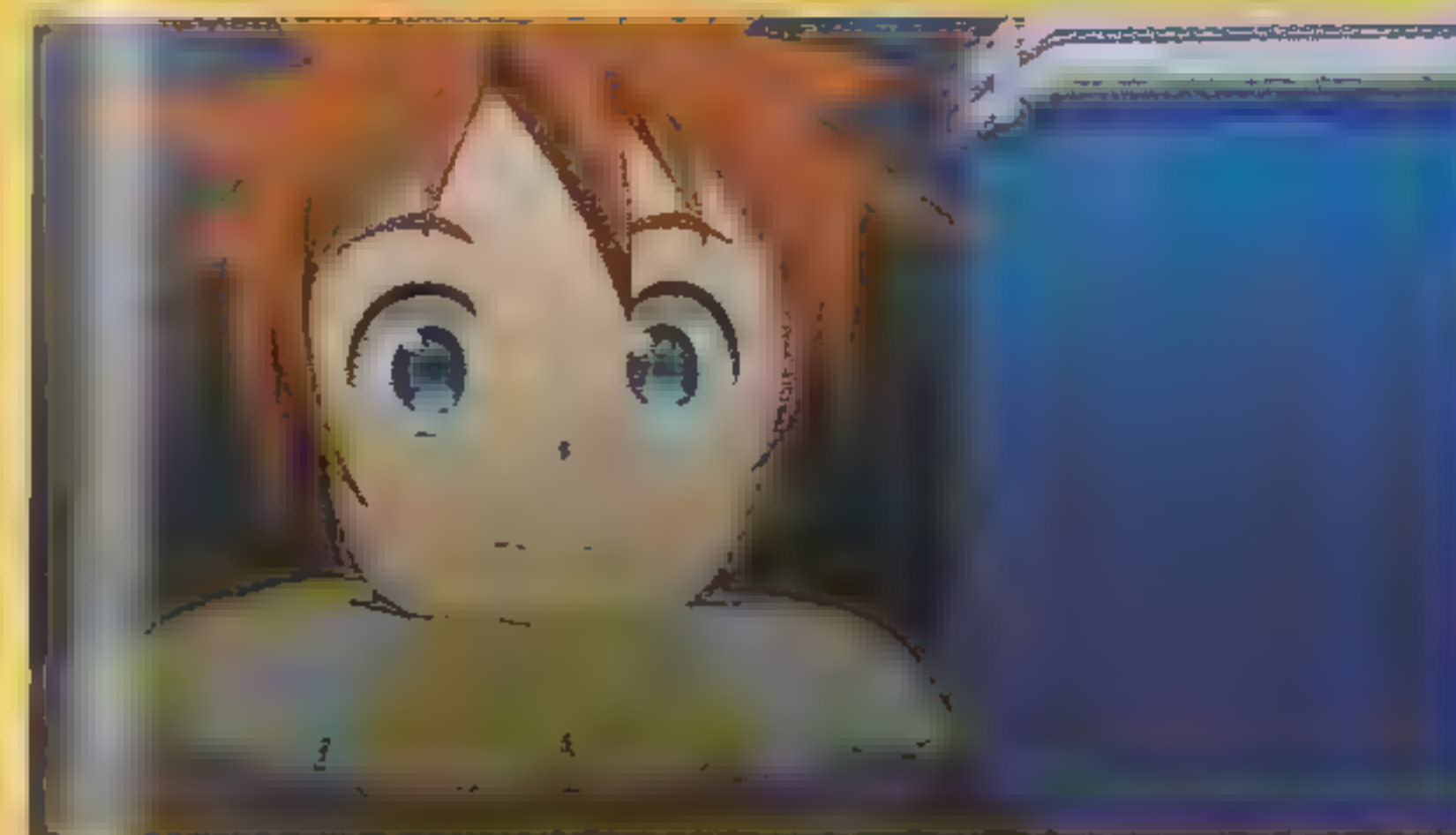
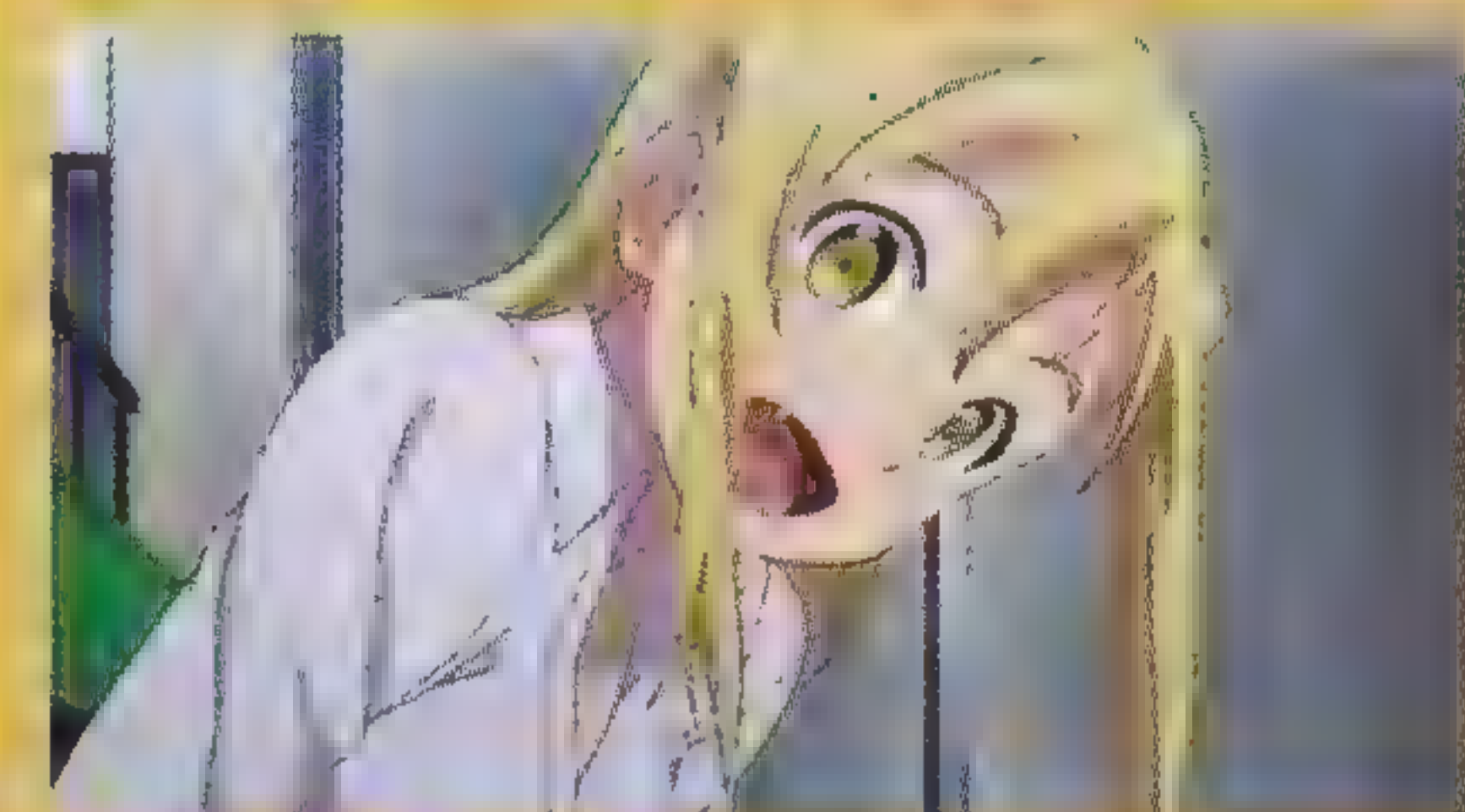
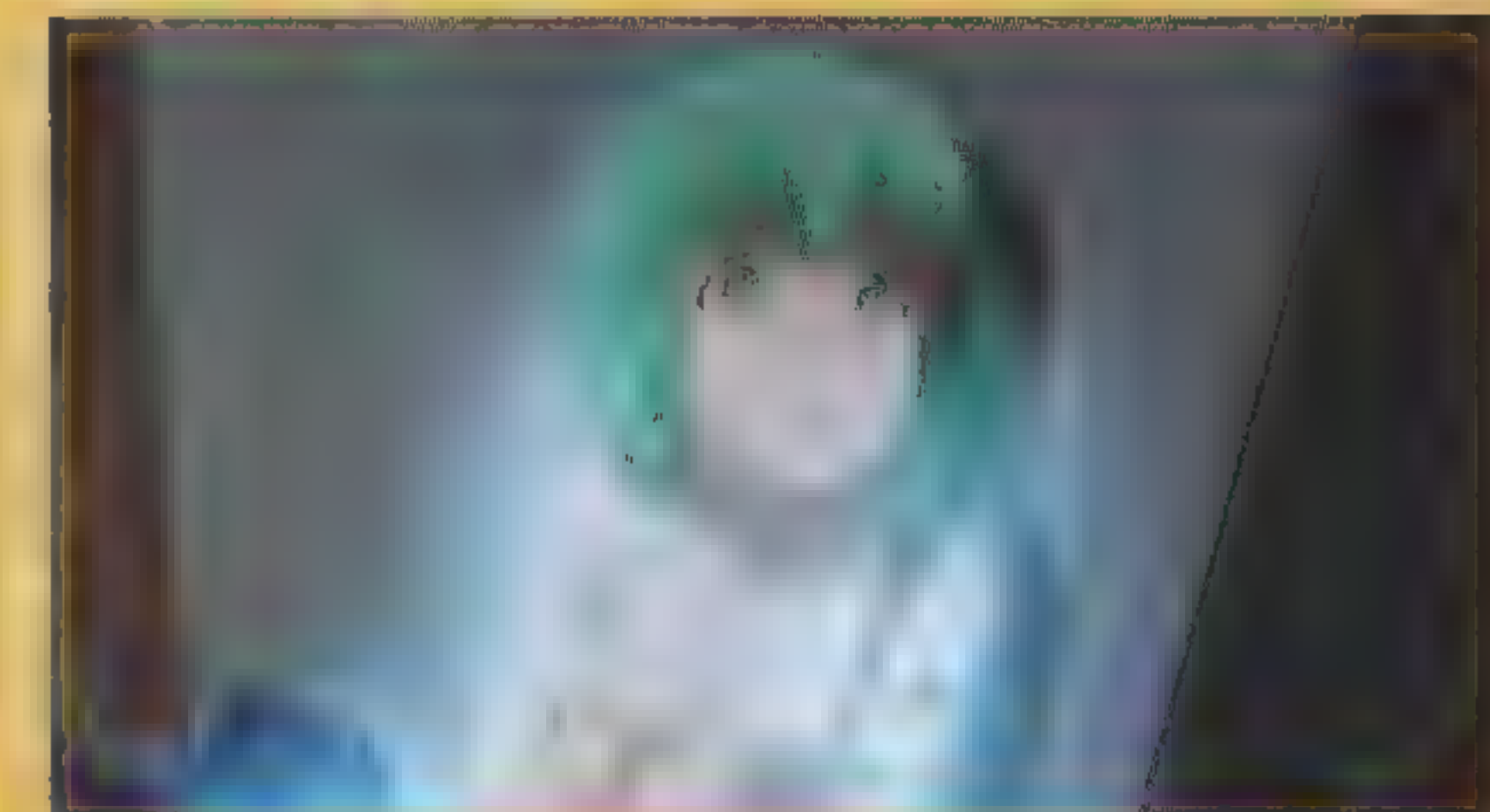
INTERVIEW WITH MONSTER GIRLS

by: James

Monster girls have become a common theme in anime as of late. Not a lot of them, however, depict what society would be like if monster girls (or monsters in general) walked among us humans. Or maybe the term "monster" wouldn't be right; it's just not cute enough. How about demi-human, or better yet, just demi? Yes, that's how they're called now. Get with the times with Interview With Monster Girls.

The show is set in a world where society is shared by both humans and monsters. Or demi-humans, rather – a more accurate term according to the show's world. The demi-humans, who were once discriminated, became more and more accepted, and in the present day being a demi-human has become an accepted part of one's identity.

Society's acceptance, however, doesn't make these beings any less interesting; that is why Professor Tetsuo Takahashi, a Biology Professor, would like to study them. Fortunately for him, he doesn't have to search far and wide, as he managed to find a handful in the very school he teaches in. There's the new PE Instructor Sakie Satou, who's a succubus; and students Kyouko Machi, a dullahan; Yuki Kusakabe, a snow-woman; and of course, Hikari Takanashi, a vampire. They're all cute, lively, and they're all demi-humans. And as Professor Takahashi's study these girls from a scientific perspective, he also learns about their joys, sorrows, and everything in between that makes these demis human.



Interview With Monster Girls is a slice-of-life take on the monster girl theme. It not only shows the lives of the girls and how cute and adorable they are, but also how they see, adapt to, and are treated by a society that is mostly made up of humans. It's mostly jolly and funny – which is evident with the rather lighthearted art style – yet its sometimes saddening, as there are moments when themes of being teased or left because of being different become evident. But of course, it's not all sadness, as the show paints a generally happy tone for our monster (and human) friends.

Interview With Monster Girls is one of this season's must-watch, as it's filled with joy and all other sorts of emotion. And of course, cute monster girls.



by: James



The internet will always be full of cat videos. Heck, it's probably the very reason why the culture-changing technological breakthrough was invented in the first place. After all, a lot of people love cats, or at least love watching them, because they're cute. There is, however, one thing cuter than cats: anime catgirls. They're more girl than cat though, except for those in *Nyanko Days*, where anime catgirls act more like cats. Or to be more precise, house cats.

The show, which is based on a 4-koma manga of the same name, is

about Yuuko Konagai, a high school student who wants to have friends, as she's a loner. It's rather sad, but that's okay though, because she has three adorable cats: Maa, a lively munchkin; Shii, a sweet singapura; and Rou, a prim and proper Russian blue. They're all adorable, and they all act like house cats despite looking like small anime catgirls. And later on, Yuuko makes a friend, Azumi Shiratori, a girl who's popular in her class. She also has a cat, Elza, a Turkish Andora. Together they bond as friend, and as pet lovers, while their cats all show their adorable sides to their owners, and of course, to us.

Nyanko Days hardly has any depth; it's mostly just a feel-good anime with a bright color palette and cute art. Its episodes are also just two minutes long, so there's really not much plot or in-depth theme. But hey, it's definitely a cute show that's just a delight. So if you love cats, anime, and cat girls, then you should definitely give *Nyanko Days* a watch.





GAMER'S ARENA

by James

Pokémon MOON & SUN

For over two decades, Pokémon has kept its crown as the quintessential monster-catching franchise. And it won't be dethroned anytime soon, as the already impressive six generations of games, which gave us over 720 Pokémon, got a new follow-up. This means a new region, new story, an updated metagame, and most importantly, new Pokémon. Gotta catch 'em all once again day in and day out with Pokémon Sun and Moon.



Pokémon Sun and Moon will be taking both veteran and newbie trainers alike to the Alola Region, which is heavily inspired by Hawaii. This archipelago is unlike the other past regions, as it has no gyms. Instead, there is the Island Challenge, a series of trials given by kahunas and trial captains to budding Pokémon trainers as a rite of passage. This puts their ability in puzzle solving, Pokémon battling skills, and their bond with their Pokémon to the ultimate test.

Other than accomplishing the Island Challenge, trainers will also confront Team Skull, the islands' ragtag group of troublemakers; catch, befriend, and train over 80 new Pokémon; uncover the truth behind the Aether Foundation, a seemingly benevolent organization that definitely has a few not-so-good secrets; learn about the legendary Pokémon Solgaleo and Lunala, as well as their links to the Tapus, Alola's Pokémon guardians, and Ultra Beasts, enigmatic Pokémon from another dimension.



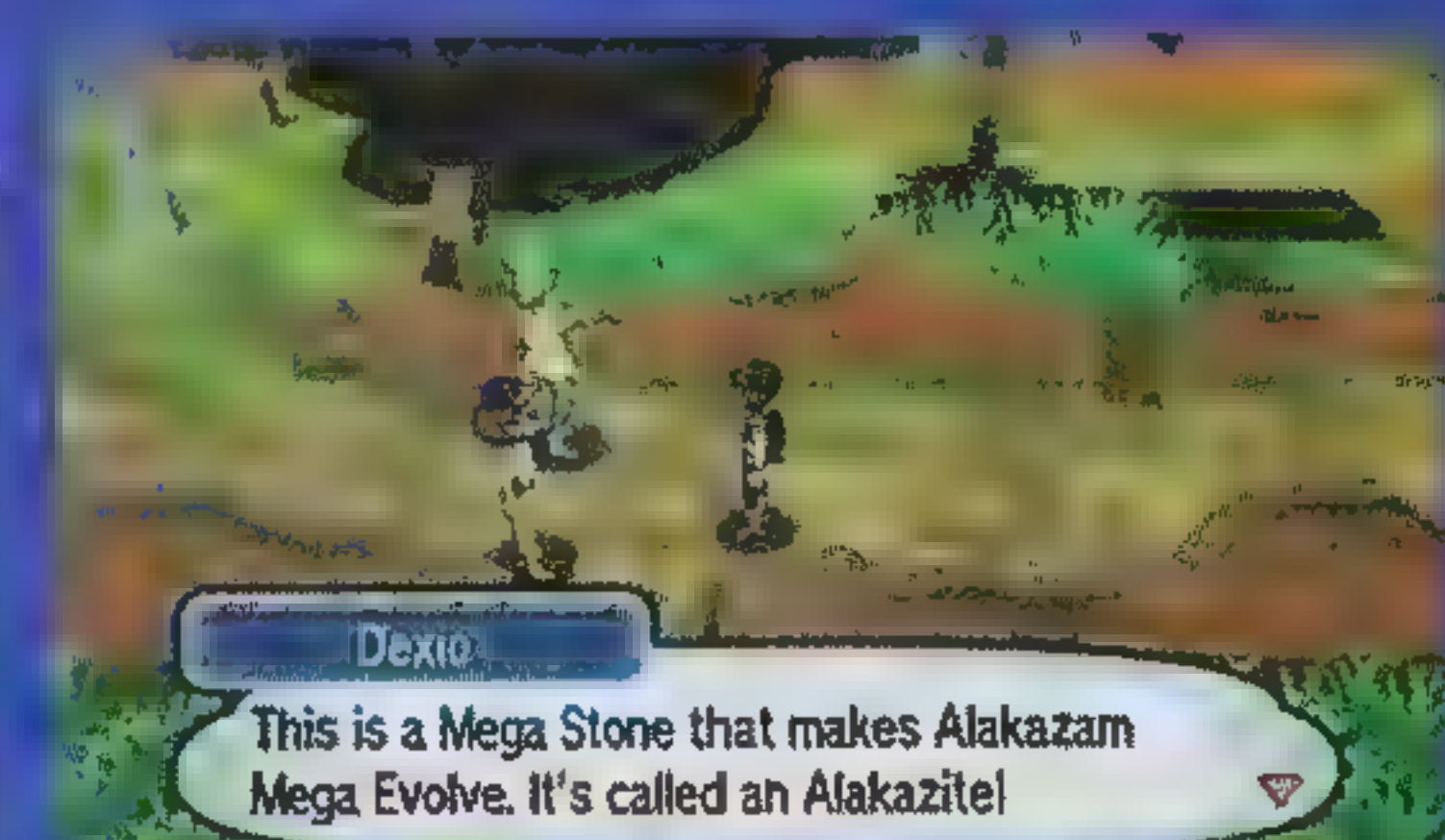
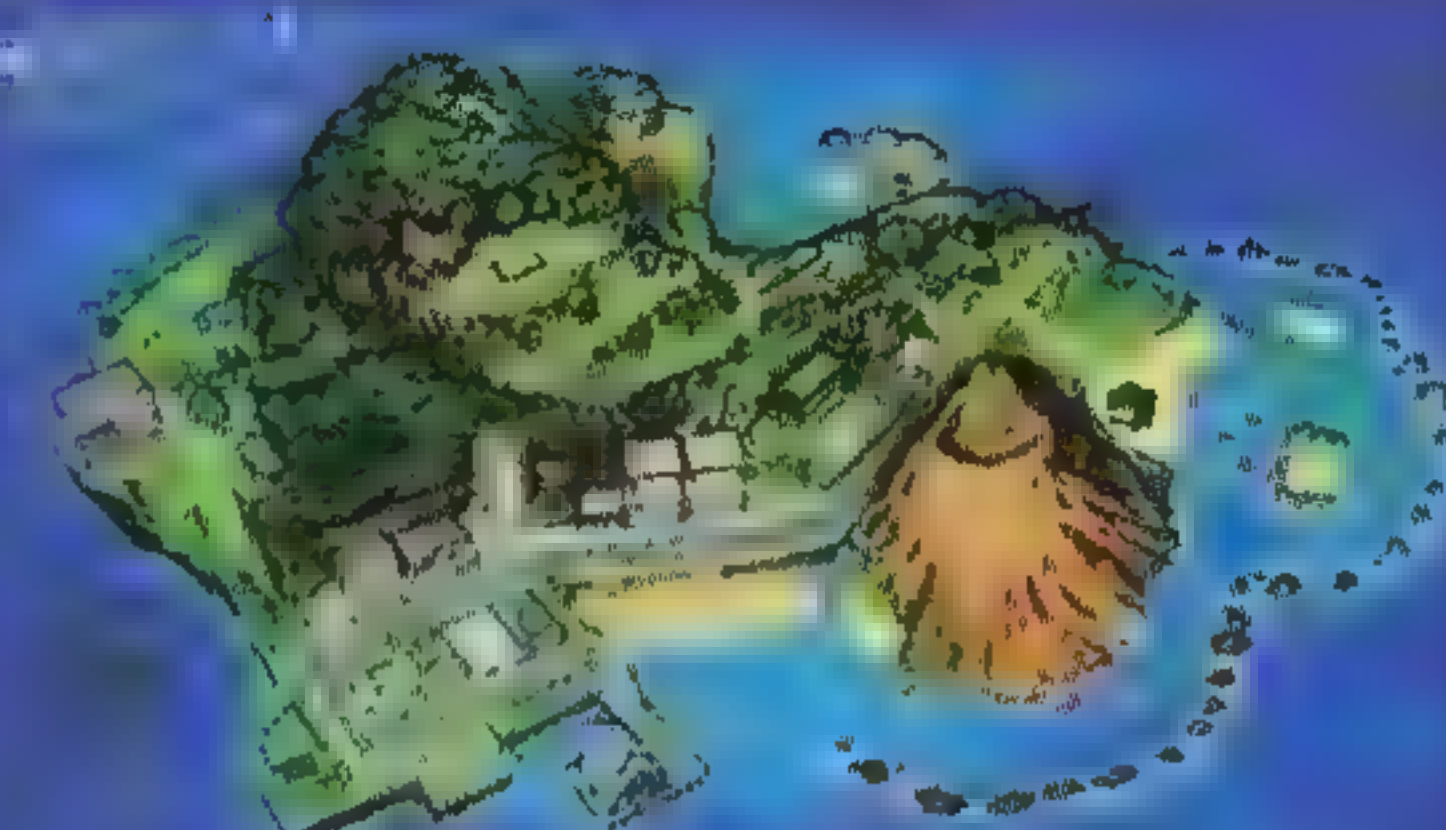
Like the eponymous creatures that are the stars of the franchise, Pokémon Sun and Moon is the latest evolution of the series. The setting is a lot more alive than previous games, making trainers truly feel like they're on a quest to catch them all and be the very best in a tropical archipelago that is rich in aboriginal culture. The new Pokémon are aesthetically brilliant, refreshing, and truly capture (pun intended) and help establish Alola's atmosphere.

The game also breathes new life to the metagame with Alola forms, variants of Kanto Pokémon that can only be found in Alola. Alola forms have different typing than their Kanto counterparts, giving them a unique niche in the metagame. Pokémon Sun and Moon also features Z-moves, powerful moves that can only be used once per battle by Pokémon that hold Z-crystals, which are earned by defeating kahunas and trial captains. The game also retains Mega Stones, items that allow specific Pokémon to

Mega Evolve, a temporary evolution that boosts Pokémon's stats.

Last but definitely not least, the online aspect of Pokémon Sun and Moon is a huge improvement over XY's. The game has retained Battle Spot and Wonder Trade, features that have made battling and trading with other players a breeze, and has added Festival Plaza, which, as the name suggests, is a festival-themed lounge where players can interact with each other, as well as play mini-games, get important items, and train Pokémon through the use of Festival Coins, a currency earned by battling fellow players.

In Pokémon Sun and Moon, the things that has made Pokémon unique and great throughout the years, and the new things that has changed the franchise for the better, have successfully come together. So stop swiping on your smartphone and get back on your 3DS; it's time to truly catch them all.



UNCHARTED 4

A Thief's End

Developer: Naughty Dog
Publisher: Sony Computer Entertainment
Platform: PlayStation 4
Genre: Action-adventure
Mode: Single and Multiplayer

All good things must come to an end. It goes without saying that no matter how epic an adventure is, there will always be a time where it would meet its inevitable conclusion. Though ultimately it is up to the person on how he'll choose his journey to come to an end, be it a beautiful and satisfying end or a futile closure to one's story.

Uncharted 4: A Thief's End is an action-adventure game for the exclusively for the PlayStation 4 console, developed by **Naughty Dog** and published by **Sony Computer Entertainment** which was globally released on May 10, 2016. The game is the direct sequel to *Uncharted 3: Drake's Deception* which was released back in 2011. *Uncharted 4* features the conclusion to Nathan Drake's life as a treasure hunter, though it is still too early to say this might be the last installment of the franchise.

The story is set a few years after the event of *Uncharted 3*. Nate has retired from his dangerous job and decided to settle down with his wife Elena. Just as he had decided to live the life of an average person, his presumed dead brother Samuel Drake suddenly reappeared with a request he cannot refuse. After reminiscing about their past, they set off on a new journey and with the aid of Nate's long time colleague Victor Sullivan; their childhood dream of pursuing Avery's treasures has resumed.

As an action-adventure game, *Uncharted 4* is played from a third person's point of view. The gameplay is basically the same as the previous installments so those who've followed the game since the first release would quickly get familiarized with the controls. The player assumes the role of Nathan Drake who is quite adept to

doing odd jobs and possesses the natural skills of a treasure hunter. Drake is able to traverse through many difficult obstacles in order to reach his objective, think something like the American ninja warrior TV show except he does it without any safety measures and is more life-threatening. Combat is also pretty much an improved version of the previous releases with some reworked elements was presented. Most times it would be an intense gunfight, sometimes all out slug fest, and of course you may also aim to master everyone's favorite, the art of stealth kills. There are also some points in the game where you would be required to drive vehicles on a massive map. *Uncharted 4*'s gameplay takes gaming to a whole new level with its highly advanced graphics and death-defying action scenes would surely make any gamers blood pumping. The *Uncharted* series never fails to amuse world wide fans due to claiming tons of awards and accolades shortly after its release. The game is designed to be enjoyed not only by fans who followed the story since day one, but also for first timers who are new to the game, though there would be some references from previous games, it would not really affect your progress.

For those who still haven't experienced the thrill of *Uncharted*, give this game a try and you would surely be begging for more.

GLORY TO MANKIND

NieR: Automata™

Mankind was on the brink of extinction when an alien race enlisted a race of machines to destroy them. They were left with no choice but to abandon Earth and construct orbital outposts on the Moon. From there, humans spent millennia creating an ever-evolving series of combat androids to wage war against Earth's mechanized invaders. On March 10, 11945, YoRHa combat android "No. 2 Type B" has been tasked to eliminate the remaining machines to finally reclaim the planet for humanity.

NieR: Automata is an action RPG developed by **Platinum Games** and published by **Square Enix** for the PlayStation 4 and Steam. The PlayStation 4 version was first released in Japan last February, followed by North America and Europe on March 2017. Its worldwide Steam release was also on March 2017. The game is an indirect sequel to both **NieR Replicant** (PlayStation 3) and **Nier Gestalt** (PlayStation 3/Xbox 360), and is set in the distant future.

GAMEPLAY

NieR: Automata combines fast-paced melee combat and bullet hell as its core gameplay elements. Players will take the role of YoRHa combat androids as they navigate the open world post-apocalyptic environment. There will be times when the camera shifts from third-person view to a top-down or side-scrolling perspective. In addition to close-quarters battle and bullet hell sections, players must do platforming and solve puzzles in some areas of the game.

Player characters will have access to four weapon types: small swords, long swords, spears, and combat bracers. The pods are small robot companions that provide ranged support during combat.



Like most RPGs, the player characters level up and gain experience points as the story progress. Character customization is done through chips—which adjust some of their attributes when installed. The number of chips that can be installed will be based on how many slots the player character has at the moment.

And finally, death in **NieR: Automata** is similar to how death works in **Dark Souls**, but with a few twists. When a player character dies, their data and memory will be uploaded into a new body and redeployed to Earth. From there, the player have two options: retrieve the body or attempt to repair it. If the player is successful in repairing the character's former body, it will become a valuable ally in battle. But if not, it will become hostile towards the player.

FUN FACTS

• The development of the story started when Yoko Taro teamed up with DearStage to create an idol group called "YoRHa".

• He also wrote a stage play titled "YoRHa", which took place before the events of **NieR: Automata**.



REVIEW

You'll know that a game will be great when the playable demo received positive remarks. **NieR: Automata's** demo was able to provide a thrilling experience for gamers despite its short game time. And now that the game is finally released for the PS4 and PC, gamers were not disappointed. **NieR: Automata** runs at 60fps in 1080p resolution—which is a huge plus nowadays since most games for the PS4 are capped at 30fps. The PC port, however, is expected to run at the same framerate and resolution as the PS4 version.

Combat gameplay this time felt very solid compared to the past **NieR** and **Drakengard** games. It goes to show that Platinum Games knows how to

implement a good combat mechanic for their games. The soundtrack used in **NieR: Automata** perfectly captures the ambience of an urban wasteland, as well as how intense one enemy encounter can be. And lastly, Yoko Taro deserves a round of applause for the game's unique narrative and new set of likeable characters.

NieR: Automata may be the strongest entry to the **NieR** series. Admittedly, there are minor flaws that prevent it from being the perfect game in history. But that doesn't ruin the overall experience. With exceptionally good reviews from game critics worldwide (*Gamer's Arena* included), it'll be no surprise for us if this game release a Game of the Year edition in the future.

And now, the final rating for **NieR: Automata** is a 9/10.

"Do you know why it is that birds fly?"

—Artorius Collbrande

Three years ago during a Scarlet Night, Velvet Crowe witnessed the death of her younger brother Laphicet through a sacrificial ritual known as the "Advent". The perpetrator was none other than her beloved brother-in-law, Artorius Collbrande. He attempted to use Velvet for the ritual as well, but she fought back and the Daemonblight corrupted her left arm, mutating it and turning her into a Daemon that feeds on anything. She was then thrown into a prison island where Velvet feeds on other Demons to survive.

Since that day, Velvet's heart is filled with intense hatred towards Laphicet's murderer—who is declared as the Shepherd by the Abbey for saving the world from the Daemonblight. Artorius may be within Velvet's grasp, but she is painfully aware that taking him down won't be a simple task. For that reason, she is willing to accept help from people who also sees the Abbey as an enemy.

DESTROYING FALSE PEACE
IN THE NAME OF VENGEANCE

Tales of Berseria

Tales of Berseria is an action RPG developed and published by **Bandai Namco Entertainment** for the PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, and Steam. It is the sixteenth main entry in the **Tales** series and the first game to feature a sole female protagonist. The game was first released in Japan in August 2016 followed by a worldwide release in January 2017.

The prologue chapter of **Tales of Berseria** was featured in episodes 5 and 6 of ufotable's **Tales of Zestiria the X**.

GAMEPLAY

Just like with the previous **Tales** games, the player explores the game's world from a third person perspective. As the player progresses through the main story or met certain conditions, they will trigger skits—animated clips that shows interaction between characters outside of cutscenes and battle. These skits can either reveal more about the characters or simply for comic relief. Side-quests and collectible items are present in **Berseria** as well.

The game's combat system allows the player to move freely in the battle zone and rotate the camera at will. In **Berseria**, the player can set multiple artes to the four face buttons, allowing them to link them into a combo artes. However, the number of artes that can be executed depends on the character's Soul Gauge (SG). Every battle starts with the all characters having 3 SG units, but if the player manages to defeat an enemy, they gain one more SG unit. Favorable encounters adds one more SG unit for all characters while risky encounters reduce it by 1.

Break Soul is a special move used as a combo connector and bring unique effects for the party. One SG unit is consumed for every Break Soul used, and using it fills up the Blast Gauge up to 5. And finally, the Blast Gauge is used for performing special attacks called Mystic Artes and switching the controlled character with a reserve member during battle.

Some minor game features involve cooking and expedition. Cooking allows the player to choose a character to cook meals for the party, granting them bonuses in battle. On the other hand, expedition sends a scouting vessel to an unknown island for 30 minutes in real time and rewards the player with treasures and cooking recipes.

REVIEW

*With that said, the final rating for **Tales of Berseria** is a 8/10.*

It's no surprise that **Tales of Berseria** is a visually-astonishing game since it was developed for three powerful gaming platforms: PS3, PS4, and PC. Story-wise, this game is the most mature and dark entry in the series since **Berseria** is about Velvet's quest for vengeance rather than a journey to save the world. Each character was also given enough exposure for the player to remember and relate with. They may appear as villains from a stranger's perspective, but you, as the player know that there is more to Velvet and the gang than mere villains.

As for the combat, being able to perform a maximum of four artes when pressing a single button made each enemy encounter a fast-paced mindless button-mashing experience. But that doesn't mean that the overall combat system is bad. This actually encourages the player to form a combo artes that will be effective against a certain enemy type. Therefore, it's important for the player to learn about the monster population of every field or dungeon they enter.

If you're new to the **Tales** series, **Berseria** is the perfect game for you to start with. You will eventually find yourself emotionally attached to a cast of broken people who are fighting on the wrong side for the right cause. The game also reminds the player that not all villains are genuinely evil.





BITZ
by Ann

DINAGYANG GETS THE PARTY STARTED

Welcoming the new year with lively dancing and loud music gets one enormous party started!
And that party happens in no other than Iloilo!



A grand feast that often happens on the fourth weekend of January, Dinagyang Festival's highlights took place this year on January 20-22. The festival is originally a thanksgiving celebration for Señor Sto. Niño or Holy Child Jesus, and while the event remains loyal to that purpose, Dinagyang came to fulfill a lot more purposes including celebrating diversity, recognizing talents, and encouraging unity.

As history recounts, Christianity was brought to the Philippine soil by the Spaniards. As such, the roots of this festival come from the strong religious attachment of Filipinos, so it comes as no surprise how grand this affair should be to honor history. Dinagyang also commemorates the arrival of the replica of the Sto. Niño image at the San Jose Parish in Iloilo, which happened on the 4th Sunday of January in 1968.

Now on its 49th edition, Dinagyang Festival has changed a lot that it has become a renowned tourist attraction. While the highlight happens on a weekend of January, participants for the street parade rehearse their dances months before that while the local government is busy with preparations including selection for Miss Iloilo Dinagyang, medical missions, outreach programs, and feeding programs. With the Ati-Ati Street Dancing, Kasadyahan Street Dancing, and the Miss Dinagyang Pageant, the festival showcases various talents from different schools. Ten Ati-ati tribes perform in "Pamukaw" last December 10 to mark the beginning of the festival season.



IN ILONGGO, "DAGYANG" MEANS TO MAKE MERRY OR HAPPY, AND THE NAME "DINAGYANG" MADE THE FESTIVAL UNIQUE FROM OTHER ATI-ATIHAN FESTIVITIES.

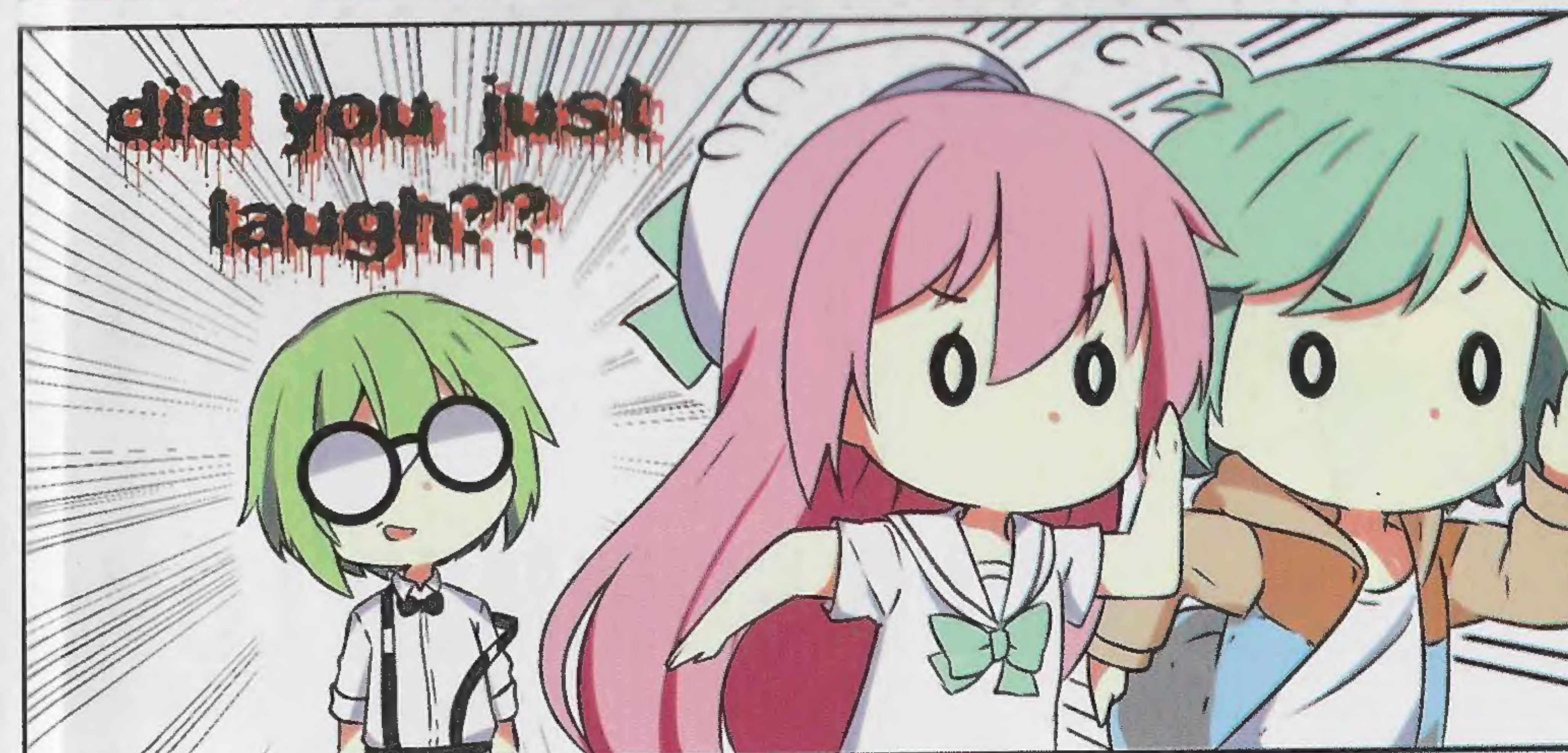
Accompanying the street dancing is loud music coming from the march music of nine elementary and secondary schools, which is another competition in itself. Other talents also rose up to the occasion like through the taekwondo tournament, on-the-spot painting contest, and art exhibit. Recently, Iloilo Dinagyang Foundation also began a photo contest for those who have a talent for snapping eye-catching shots. These features strengthen the theme "Communion of Communities with Santo Niño" as locals all help to make this marvelous happening, bonding not only talents but also observing the culture from the colorful banners and costumes.

This year, Dinagyang took a turn to celebrate its religious and socio-cultural roots as there was a call to have less focus on the commercial aspect of the event and to make it crime and drug-free. Thus, the fine merry-making happens only after a mass has been held as well as more Christian-centered events spread throughout the season. Dinagyang wrapped up the huge party with a thanksgiving mass that happened on the 23rd of January.

This year, the event carries the slogan

"SEE, FEEL, LOVE"

and indeed, spectators saw a visual extravaganza, felt overwhelming bliss (as well as strong thumping with the intense sounds), and loved everything Dinagyang had to offer. The party just keeps getting more magnanimous every year, so its 50th edition is worth looking out for!



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#THROWBACK



After 15 years of serialization in Kodansha, Pastel by Kobayashi Toshihiko has finally ended this 2017. Let's go and reminisce for a bit this cute romance that started in an island!

OLD SUMMER LOVE

by Kahlua

Heartbroken people needs diversion in order to keep their hearts from sinking even further. Mugi Tadano is no exception.

Mugi recently broke up with his girlfriend after she moved away to Tokyo. Mugi was all depressed, so his friend Kazuki invited him to do a part-time job in his aunt's beach-side snack bar and hotel just to help him cheer up by making himself busy. It was a good idea for Mugi, since the new environment and all the work keeps him from thinking about his breakup. But it was even more than what he expected, for in there he met Yuu, the possibly cutest girl he had ever met.

Kazuki set up Yuu and Mugi for a blind date and everything was going well between the two of them, but not

until Mugi accidentally walks in on the bath where Yuu was there. Of course Yuu got mad and darted out of the bathhouse. The next day, when Mugi was planning to apologize to her, he found out that the girl already left the island. Mugi decided, therefore, to find Yuu, but will he be able to do it?

Pastel started its serialization in July 10, 2002 and ended last January 20, 2017 with a total of 44 volumes. It actually just started with a simple "a boy meets a cute girl and falls in love with her" story, but the good part is that this will actually progress into a relationship of unripe (not by blood) siblings. Oops, was that a spoiler? Well, go find out and start binge reading all those 44 volumes of a romance, ecchi, comedy, shounen manga!

GK
CONTEST 2016

Champions are Born

E2046

Figure



Serafin Germany

Robot



蔚蓝 China



1st Runner Up
tomcat
Germany



1st Runner Up
tomcat
Germany



2nd Runner Up
dianahase
Germany



2nd Runner Up
mennie
Thailand

Diorama



freakXtyle Russian Federation



1st Runner Up salva Spain

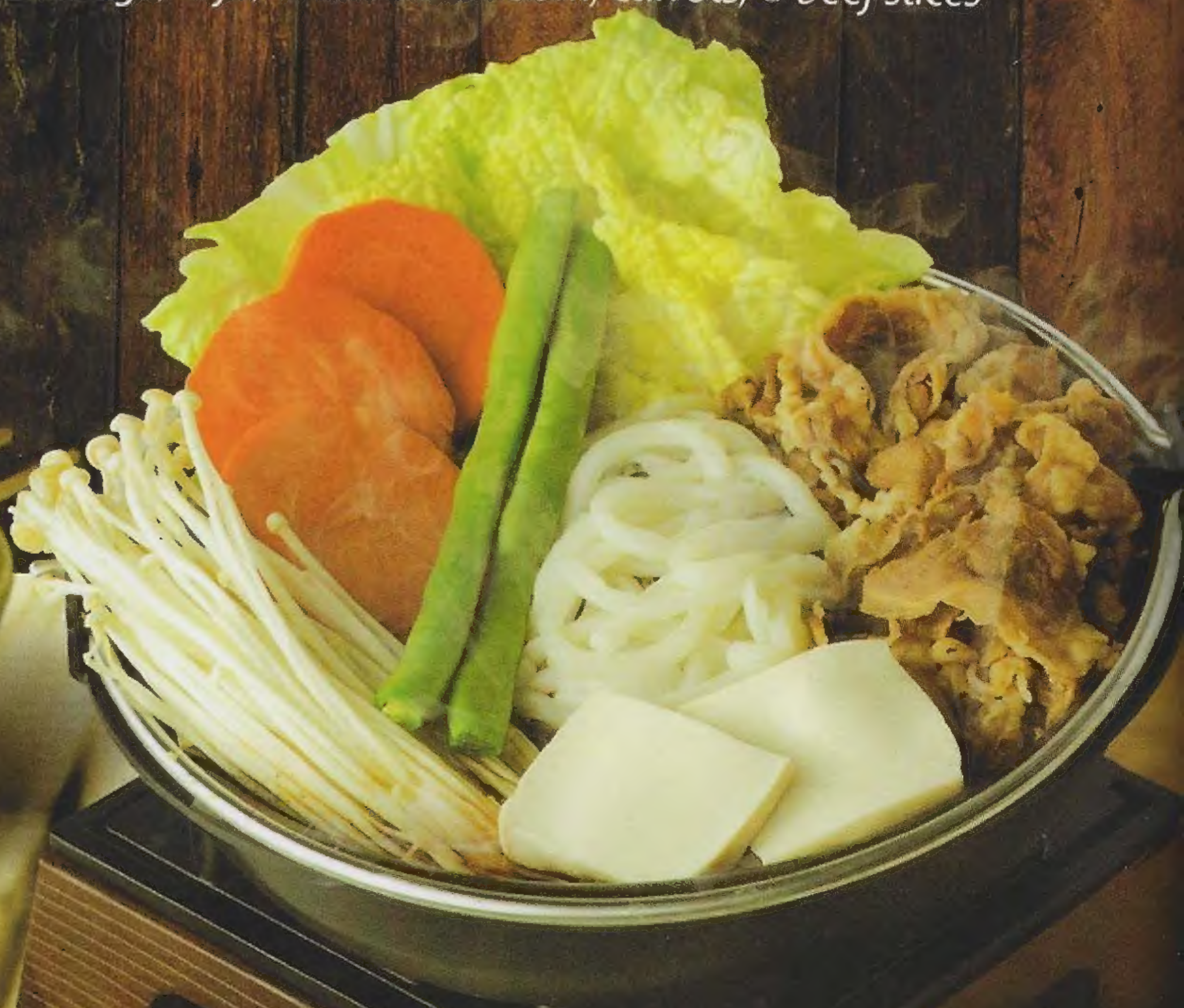


2nd Runner Up Ksana Russian Federation

YOSHINOYA

Sukiyaki

Japanese hot pot dish served with udon, green beans, chinese cabbage, tofu, enoki mushroom, carrots, & beef slices



W E D E L I V E R
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SM MANILA SM MALL OF ASIA SM MEGAMALL SM NORTH EDSA SM FAIRVIEW SM SOUTHMALL
SM SEASIDE CITY CEBU SM CITY CEBU GLORIETTA ROBINSONS GALLERIA VALERO MAKATI FAIRVIEW TERRACES